



Rational for Chanukah 5776

Subject of the Broadcast: Heroism: Past, Present and Future

Ages: Grades 3-6

General Message of the Broadcast: From Heroes found in our chain of generations we learn bravery and how to stand up for ourselves and our religion when faced with difficulties. We learn from past and present heroes how to apply these attributes to our daily lives.

Educational Goals:

- Help each student realize that these heroes connect them to a chain of generations of heroes spanning back more than 4,000 years. Avraham, Macabbees, etc.
- Help students realize their own hero characteristics
- Explore and learn about these three heroes; what they have in common, how they differ
- Why Heroism is so important to the Story of Chanukah
- Learn and discuss the idea of modern heroes

Content:

- Live real-time broadcast from the Western Wall
- Interaction with Guide at the Western Wall and Chanukah Lighting
- Notes in the Western Wall
- Frontal presentation
- Preparatory activities

Preparatory Activity:

- Divide class into three (3) groups
 - Group 1: Assign a Biblical Hero (for a list of suggestions, see below)
 - Group 2: Assign a Chanukah Hero
 - Group 3: Assign a Modern Jewish Hero
- Groups will perform a short research about their hero and discuss what they found
 - A few sentences on who they were
 - Where they lived
 - When they lived
 - What did they do that was heroic and what makes it heroic
 - Define Hero's characteristics
- Each group will create a model Magazine Cover featuring their Hero

- On 12"x16" poster board
- Depict a drawing of photo of their Hero
- Including headlines and "article topics" connecting to their Hero
- In-class discussion
 - What makes a person a hero?
 - What characteristics do they have?
 - What was the situation for the Jews?
 - Why was there a need for the Hero to arise?
 - How did the Heroes act(s) affect the situation?
 - Who is your personal hero and why?
 - Is this Hero personal to your life or famous?
- Prepare notes for our Guide to place in the Western Wall during the live video conference

Video Conference Activity:

- Students will answer in short the "Who/What/Where/When/Why" questions about their Heroes provided by the Western Wall Guide
- One volunteer from each group will present their magazine cover to the Guide, explaining the significance of their Hero.
- Guide will place prepared notes in the Western Wall

Here is a list of suggested Heroes (in no particular order). Feel free to use what is listed below or add your own to create an intriguing research project for the students.

Heroes of Chanukah:

- Mattityahu - his 5 sons
- Yehuda HaMaccabee
- Yehudit
- Chana - her 7 sons
- Maccabees

Heroes in Tanach:

- Avraham
- Yosef
- Moshe
- Shimon Bar Kochba
- David
- Esther
- Rabbi Akiva
- Shimshon HaGibor



- Ruth
- Yonah

Modern Jewish Heroes:

- Sarah Schenirer
- Yoni Netanyahu
- Rebbetzin Kanievsky
- IDF Soldiers
- Natan Sharansky
- Sir Nicholas Winton
- Raoul Wallenberg
- Chana Senesh
- Rebbetzin Rivka and Rabbi Gavriel Holtzberg