



# NIGHT TO HONOR ISRAEL JR

## EVENT PLANNING GUIDE

On September 10, 1981, Christians United for Israel (CUFI) Founder, Pastor John Hagee hosted the first Night to Honor Israel in San Antonio, Texas. Today similar events are hosted around the world as Christians unite for an expression of solidarity with the State of Israel and the Jewish people. Since 2006, CUFI Kids Coordinator, Pastor Brett Owen has been hosting NTHI Jr events. NTHI Jr events are filled with interactive teachings, games, crafts, dancing and more.

Together we can teach the next generation the importance of loving and blessing Israel. We hope this event planning guide provides the framework and ideas for you to host a Night to Honor Israel Jr at your church.

## HOSTING A NIGHT TO HONOR ISRAEL JR

The following are some of the teachings, activities, crafts and games that can be used to host your NTHI Jr event.

### TEACHINGS

#### CUFI KIDS LESSON

##### HOW TO BE A CUFI KID

We recommend using this introductory lesson during your NTHI Jr. Participants will learn how they can become part of Christians United for Israel. They will discover four Biblical reasons why we love and bless Israel. You can weave all 4 reasons throughout your teaching and activities.

Or you may choose to create a teaching series over the course of several weeks that builds up to the NTHI Jr celebratory event.



## OTHER TEACHING TOPICS:

- Father Abraham – Understanding the Blessing of Abraham
- The Story of Israel – A Nation Born in A Day
- Deuteronomy 6:5-9 - The Shema
- Psalm 122:6 – Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem
- Genesis 12:3 – I Will Bless Israel

Additional CUFI Kids lessons on these and other topics are currently in production and will be made available once completed.

## ACTIVITIES

### Hebrew Dancing

Children enjoy being active and moving. Lead your group in Hebrew dances using familiar praise songs or discover and use new Hebrew songs. From fun circle dances to basic motion routines kids will love to learn and dance.



## Flag Celebration

Using flags is a beautiful expression of praise. This activity can also be used to teach the Biblical meanings of colors.



## Israel Snacks

Host a snack time and include a variety of snacks or candies from Israel. Rugelach, Jewish sweet bread, is a great option. Children will love the cinnamon and chocolate flavors. Matzah is also a fun snack with a great teaching application as well.



## Sing the Shema

Teaching children to sing and pray the Shema is a beautiful expression of prayer during a NTHI Jr. The Shema is the centerpiece of the daily morning and evening prayer and is considered by some the most essential prayer in all of Judaism. Traditionally, it is recited with the hand placed over the eyes. Here are the words that can be sung or recited in both Hebrew and English.



She-ma yisrael, adonai eloheinu, adonai echad  
Baruch shem kavod malchuto l'olam va-ed

Hear O' Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One  
Blessed is the name of His glorious kingdom for ever and ever

### **Bless the Children**

Every Friday night the Jewish people have a beautiful custom of blessing their children.  
Host a time during NTHI Jr where you bless the children.

Over the boys pray:

May you be like Ephraim and Menashe.  
*Yismech Elohim k'Ephraim v'chi-Menashe.*

Over the girls pray:

May you be like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah.  
*Yesimech Elohim k'Sarah Rivka Rachel v'Leah*

Over both boys and girls pray:

May God bless you and protect you.  
*Yivarechecha Adonai v'yishmerecha*

May God show you favor and be gracious to you.  
*Ya'er Adonai panav eilecha vichuneka*

May God show you kindness and grant you peace.  
*Yisa Adonai panav eilecha v'yasem lecha shalom*

### **Prayer Time**

Host an interactive prayer time. The Bible instructs us to "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Say, 'May those who love you be secure.'" Psalm 122:6 Encourage children to pray for children in Israel. Have children pray out loud for Israel and for peace.

## Prayer Wall

Build your own prayer wall where children can post written prayers. Teach about the Western Wall and how prayers are offered there daily by the Jewish people.



## American & Israel National Anthems

Purchase small American and Israel flags for each child. Host a time where the national anthems are played as children wave and sing along.



## Tour Israel

Host a virtual tour of Israel using a variety of photos and videos. Share the geography, the culture and the types of experiences people enjoy when they visit Israel. You could also invite someone who has visited Israel to share their photos and experiences.

## CRAFTS

### Star of David

Create, paint and decorate a star of David using popsicle sticks.



### Menorah

Have children create a menorah. You can use a variety of materials such as construction paper, popsicle sticks, cereal or macaroni. This craft is an opportunity to teach about Hanukkah and how the menorah was the source of light in the temple.



## Prayer Hand

Teach children to pray for Israel by creating a prayer hand craft with each finger as a reminder for a verse and prayer topic. Here's an example:



Finger 1 – numbers 6:23-26 – bless them and keep them

Finger 2 – numbers 6:23-26 – make your face to shine upon them and be gracious to them

Finger 3 – psalm 122:6 – peace of Jerusalem

Finger 4 – psalm 83 – see their enemies and defend against their enemies

Finger 5 – Isaiah 62:6-7 – watch over and restore them

## Sand & Stars

Create crafts with a star or sand theme. Use the craft to teach about how God promised Abraham, “I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore.” Genesis 22:17





## GAMES

### GaGa Ball

Did you know the popular game called GaGa Ball was created in Israel? GaGa actually translates from Hebrew as "touch-touch" and is a variation on dodgeball. Known also as Israeli Dodgeball, GaGa Ball is a fun, easy game to learn and play. It is played in an octagon arena. The octagon can be built but you could also use tables to create the arena.



The basic object of the game is to eliminate your opponents by striking the ball and having it hit them below the waist while trying to avoid being hit yourself. To increase the fun and action for larger groups, often a second ball can be put into play as well.

### Angry Quail

Play a live action "Angry Birds" style game only instead use quail. Quail could be drawn on dodge balls or you can purchase stuffed animal quail birds. Tell the children the quail are angry because while Moses was gone the Israelites made a golden calf idol. Place a golden calf on the cardboard boxes and the object of the game is to slingshot or throw the quail birds at the boxes to destroy the idol.



## Hide the Afikomen

For many Jewish children, the most exciting part of the Passover Seder is finding the afikomen. Play with the children by hiding matzah in the room and see who can find it the fastest. The winner gets to enjoy the matzah.

## Dreidel

Dreidel is a traditional game played to celebrate Hanukkah. The letters on the dreidel—*nun*, *gimel*, *hei*, and *shin*—are interpreted to stand for the first letter of each word in the Hebrew statement *Neis gadol hayah sham*, which means, “A great miracle happened there” and refers to the defeat of the Syrian army and the re-dedication of the Temple in the story of Hanukkah.

What You’ll Need:

- Playing pieces (plastic chips, pennies, small candies, buttons, peanuts in the shell, etc. may be used) for each person
- A dreidel for the group

How to Play:

Distribute an equal number of playing pieces to each person. Begin by having each of the players put one or two pieces into a common pot. Take turns spinning the dreidel and taking the actions determined by the letter you spin:

- *Nun*: The player takes nothing.
- *Gimel*: The player takes all.
- *Hei*: The player takes half.
- *Shin*: The player puts in.

The winner is the person who collects all the playing pieces.

## Bible Trivia

Host a Bible trivia gameshow where teams compete to answer the most Bible Trivia questions. Add Bible Story themed physical challenges to the mix for extra points for their team.