



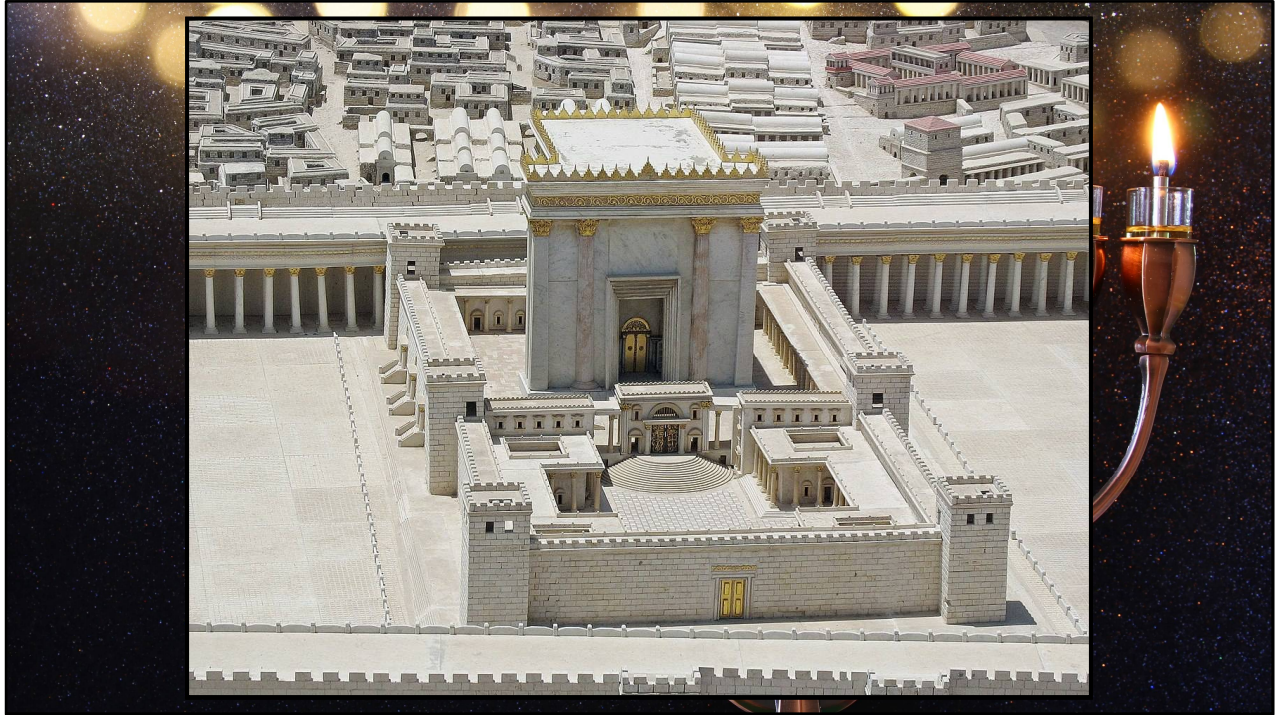
My hope for this class, is that now that you have a greater portion of God's light:

- That you'll be able to keep it burning.
- That your light will not fade after you go back home
- That your light will grow brighter and brighter

What is this a picture of? It's a menorah.

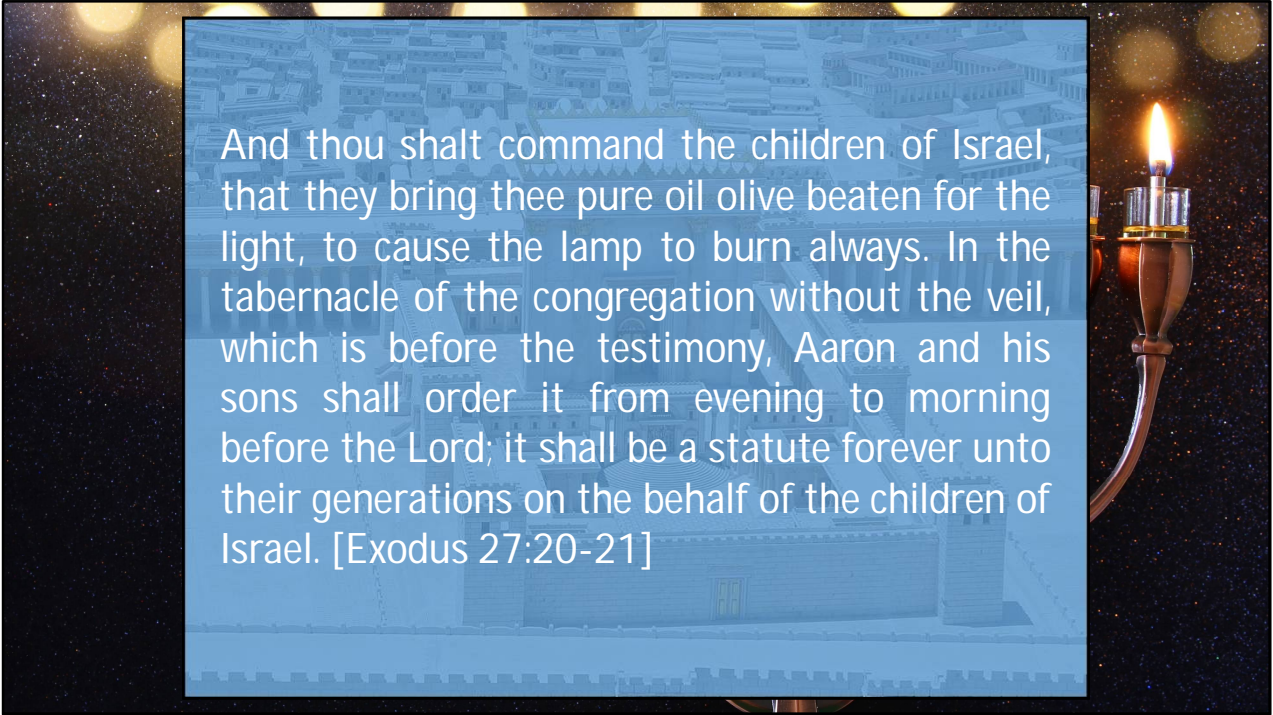
- Does anyone know what religious holiday uses this as a central them?
- Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights,
- Jesus celebrated Hanukkah, also known as the feast of dedication [John 10:22]

Before I explain, I need to give a little backstory...



This is King Herod's temple, which would have somewhat resembled the temple at the time of the dedication

- According to the book of Exodus, God commanded Moses,
- That there should be a light, an eternal light, burning before the most Holy Place day and night



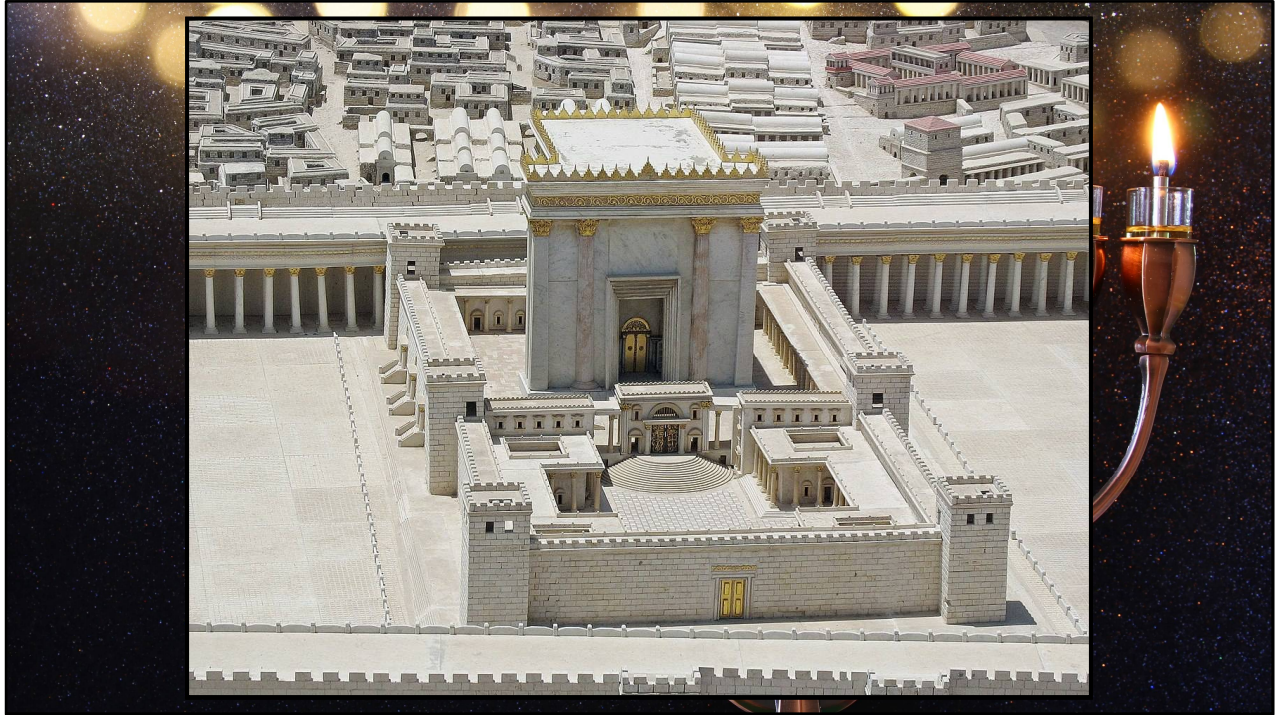
And thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always. In the tabernacle of the congregation without the veil, which is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall order it from evening to morning before the Lord; it shall be a statute forever unto their generations on the behalf of the children of Israel. [Exodus 27:20-21]

Ner tamid, meaning the eternal light, is central to one of many stories behind the celebration of the Jewish festival of [Hanukkah](#).

- When the ancient [Maccabees](#) rebelled and reclaimed the [Temple in Jerusalem](#), they rekindled the eternal light.
- However, there was only enough oil to keep the flame burning for one day, and it took eight days to bring new oil.
- Miraculously, according to the narrative in the [Talmud](#), the flame continued burning until new oil arrived.

Modern Jewish celebrations of Hanukkah include lighting a [Hanukkah menorah](#) (*Hanukkiyah*), which has nine branches.

- This includes the *shamash* used to light the other eight flames (candles or oil wicks), evoking the story.

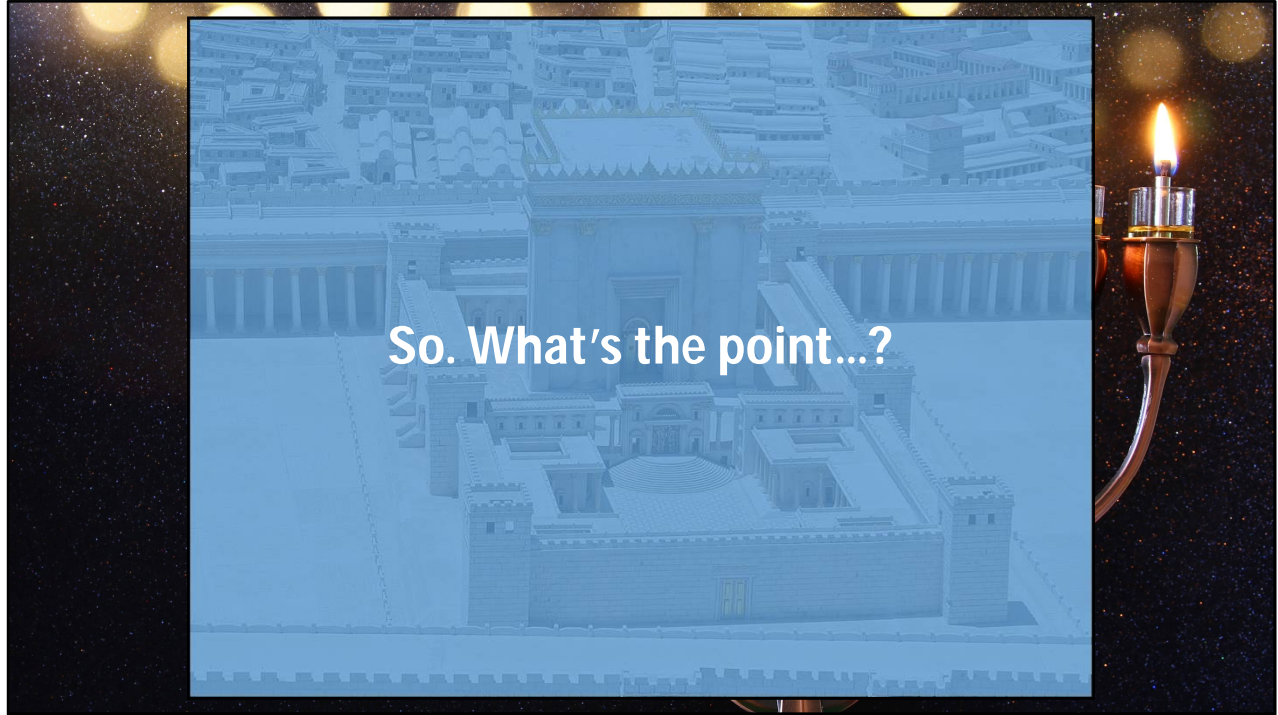


History: After the Alexander the Great's death 323 BC, Judea fell under the rule of the Ptolemies of Egypt

- In 200 BC, King Antiochus III defeated the Ptolemies and took control over Judea
- King Antiochus IV tried to Hellenize the Jews
- He eventually outlawed Jewish practices,
- erected a statue of Zeus,
- And sacrificed pigs to Greek gods in the temple.

A Jewish priest Mattathias rose up,

- along with his five sons (the foremost son was Judah Maccabee)
- They fought and won their freedom.
- They re-dedicated the temple in 164 BC



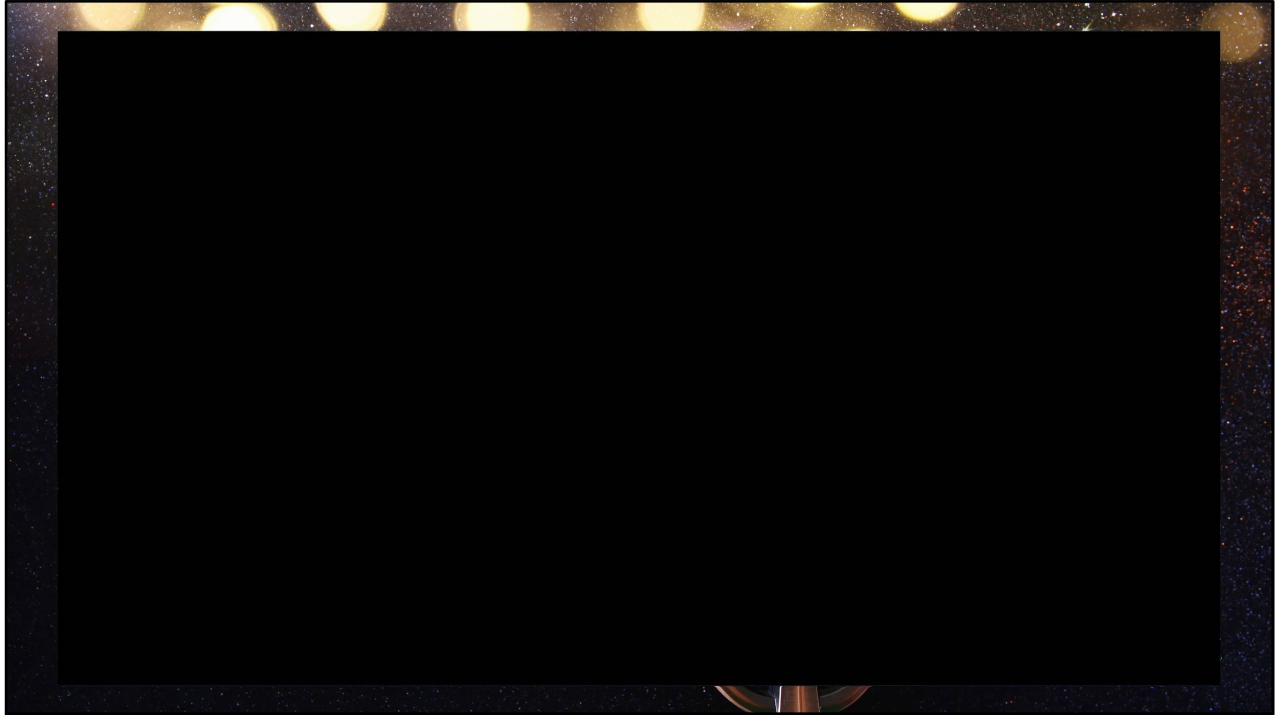
The story of Hanukkah highlights a couple things:

1. It shows how quickly the light can be snuffed out
2. It shows how difficult it can be to turn the light back on
3. In the end, the light will always overcome the darkness

Right now, I hope your lights are turned on.

- I hope this camp has helped you to realize just how great God's light can be.
- I hope that you want this light in your life

So, where do we go from here?



Momentum is our greatest friend, but the lack of momentum is our greatest enemy.

- In order for a rocket ship to reach space and escape earth's gravitational pull,
- it must reach escape velocity, or 25,000 mph.



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Creating momentum is like launching a rocket.

- You'll use a disproportionate amount of energy to get off the ground,
- but once you overcome gravity, you can maintain your momentum with minimal effort.

Hopefully by now,

- you've received a great boost in your momentum due to the camp,
- but how will you keep that going after we leave here?



What does it mean to endure?

2 Nephi 13:30 Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life.

While many scriptures explain that we must endure to the end [2 Nephi 13:30], what does that mean?

- How exactly do we endure?
- And what does it mean to endure?

The *1828 Webster's Dictionary* defines endure as,

- "To last, to bear, to sustain; to support without breaking or yielding to force or pressure.
- Metals *endure* a certain degree of heat without melting."

2 Nephi 13:20-21

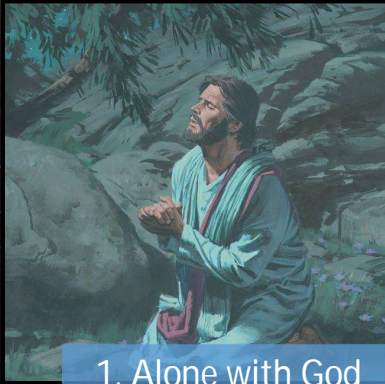
²⁰)He that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved. ²¹)And now, my beloved brethren, I know by this, that unless a man shall endure to the end, in following the example of the Son of the living God, he can not be saved;

3 Nephi 7:10

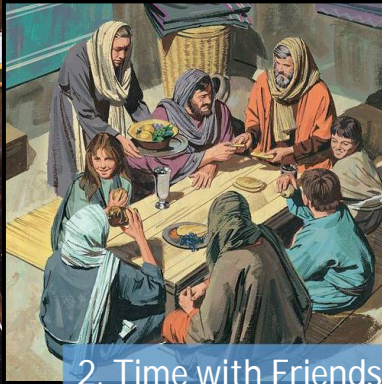
¹⁰)Behold, I am the law, and the light; look unto me, and endure to the end, and ye shall live, for unto him that endureth to the end will I give eternal life.

These two scriptures give us the same understanding.

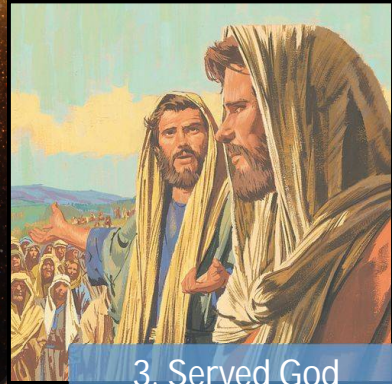
- If we want to endure, we must follow Jesus Christ.
- This begs the question, while Jesus suffered more than any man [Mosiah 1:100-101, Al 5:20-22],
- what exactly did Jesus do that helped Him to endure?
- There are three things that stand out to me.



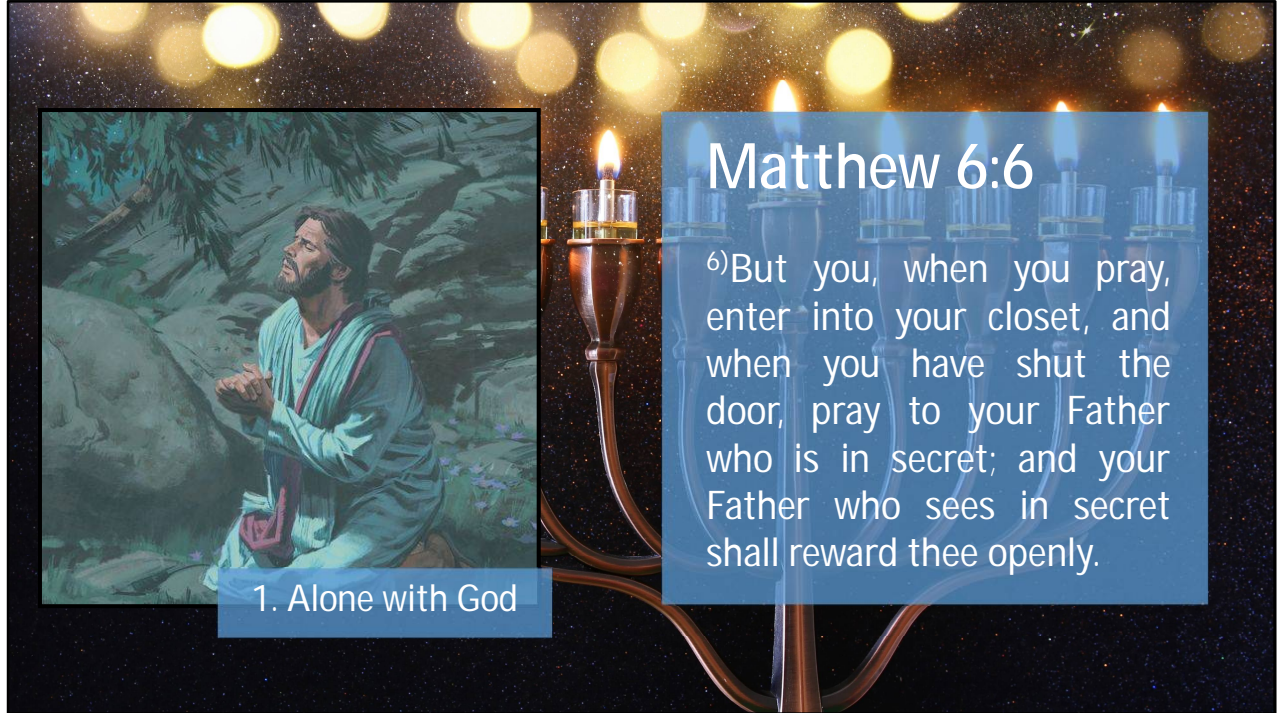
1. Alone with God



2. Time with Friends



3. Served God



Matthew 6:6

⁶)But you, when you pray, enter into your closet, and when you have shut the door, pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret shall reward thee openly.

1. Alone with God

There are at least five separate occasions where Jesus separated Himself from others in order to spend time with God [Mat 4:1-2, Mat 14:19, Mar 6:48, Luke 6:12, John 6:15].

- Jesus Himself told us to spend time in our closets,
- why did He do that?

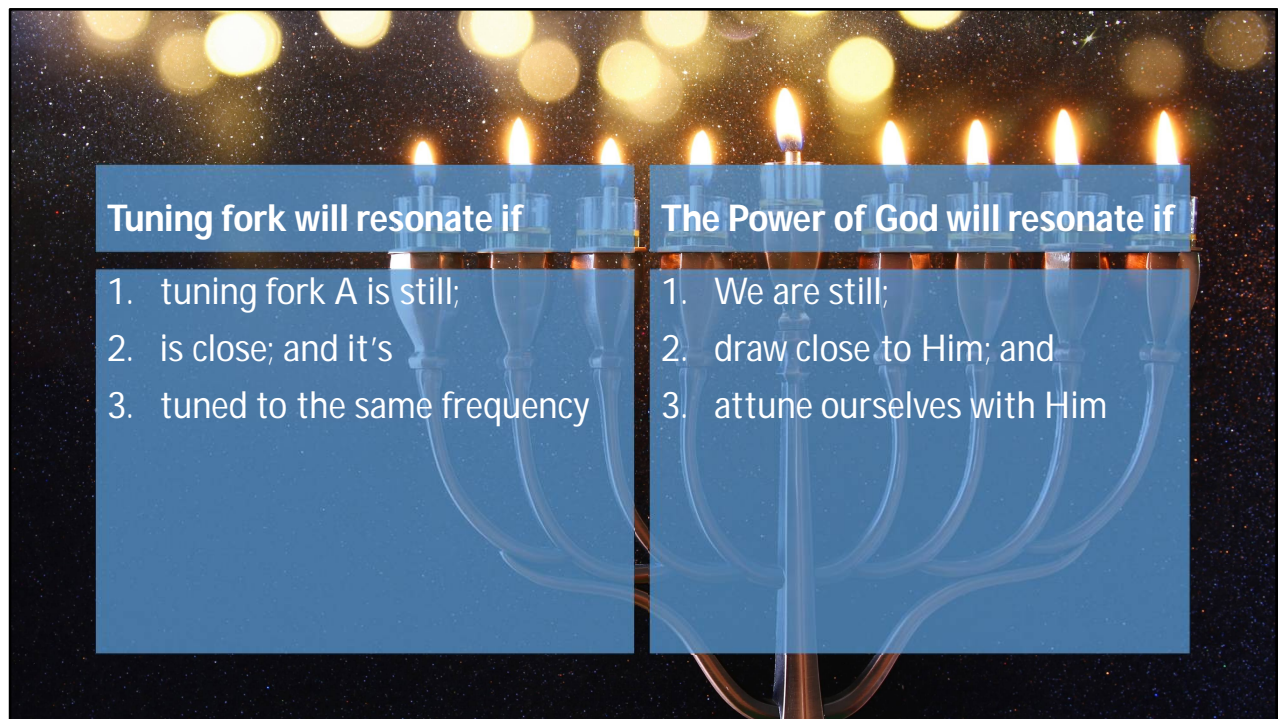
Alma 16:221

²²¹)But this is not all: ye must pour out your souls in your closets, and your secret places, and in your wilderness;



Let's consider a tuning fork: A tuning fork gives off a certain frequency (or number of waves), when it is struck.

- It's used to tune instruments.
- The typical reference frequency for a tuning fork is 440 Hz,
- which corresponds to note A4 in the central octave of the piano.



Tuning for will resonate if:

1. tuning fork A is still;
2. is close; and
3. tuned to the same frequency

The Power of God will resonate if we:

1. We are still [Psa 46:]
2. draw close to Him [Sec 85:16a-b]
3. attune ourselves with Him [1 Pet 1:15-16]

Section 85:16a-e

16a) And again, verily I say unto you, my friends, I leave these sayings with you, to ponder in your hearts with this commandment which I give unto you, that ye shall call upon me while I am near; 16b) draw near unto me, ***and I will draw near unto you***, 16c) seek me diligently and ye shall find me; 16d) ask and ye shall receive; 16e) knock and it shall be opened unto you;



2. Spend time with close friends

Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. [Ecclesiastes 4:9-10]

There is power in community

- We all have a desire to love and be loved,
- to know and be known.
- Even Jesus had this desire
- We need intimacy, not as the world defines it, but as Christ does.



There are moments when Jesus was desperate for companionship,

- such as during the mount of transfiguration [Matt 17:1-8],
- or even during the last supper [Luke 22:15],
- “With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.”



Intimacy is...

The ability to be vulnerable. We all have a need for it at some level. We want to know and be known. We want to be seen and loved. In fact, a lot of our personal struggles are rooted in our lack of intimacy with God and others.

The bottom line: this life is all about relationship...

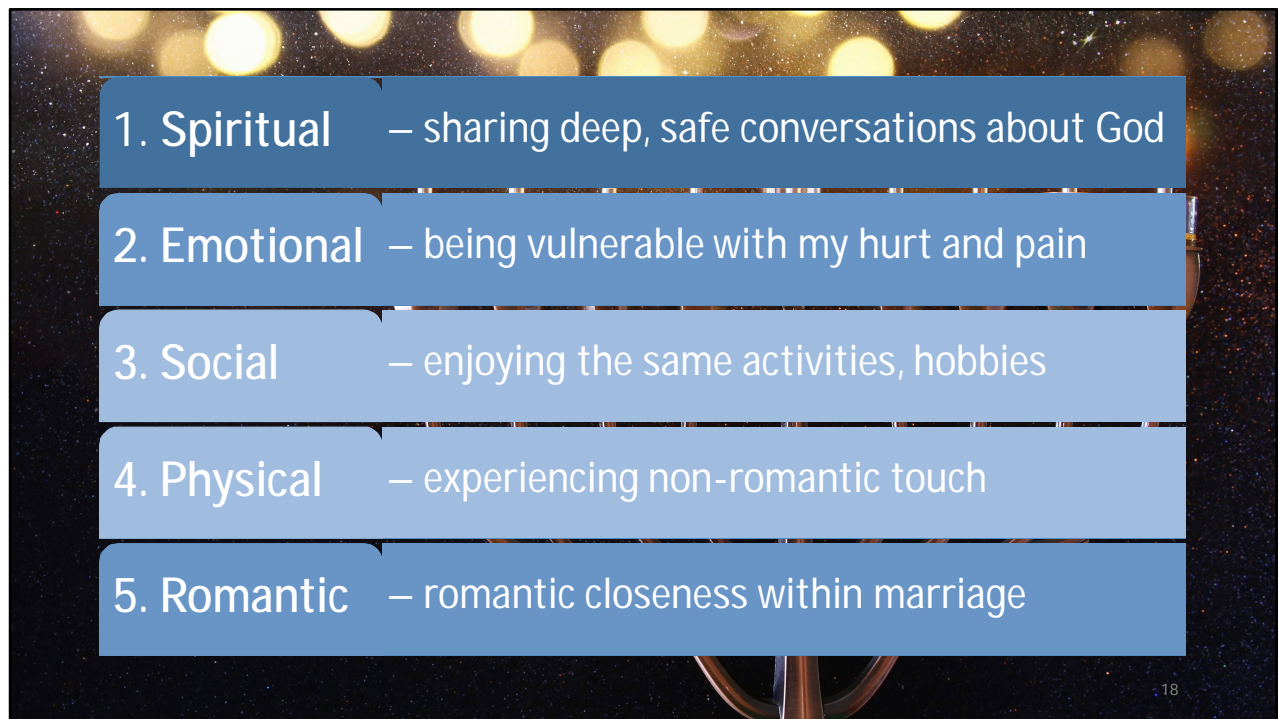
- with God,
- with others
- with ourselves

1 big thing: it is our vulnerabilities that allow us to connect and become intimate with one another

- If we struggle with vulnerability and intimacy, then our relationships with others...
- will not be what they can be

Without intimacy with God or others it's as if we're placed on an island.

- An island where fear and shame dwell
- Where we seek for intimacy in the wrong places



Without intimacy with God or others it's as if we're placed on an island.

- An island where fear dwells.
- Where we seek for intimacy in the wrong places

What's next: Ask your self, what levels of intimacy are you lacking?



Object lesson

Small Groups



3. Serve God and others

And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant; Even as the Son of Man came, not to be ministered unto, but to minister; and to give his life a ransom for many. [Matthew 20:27-28]

Jesus was relentless in His service to His Father and to His people

- For example, when Jesus heard about the death of His cousin John, He must have been down
- He tries to get away to be alone, but the people follow Him
- Rather than sending them away, as the disciples wanted to do
- Jesus fed the 5,000 with 5 loaves and 2 fishes [Matthew 14:12-18]



The geocentric model has been around since at least the 4th century BC with the likes of Plato and Aristotle:

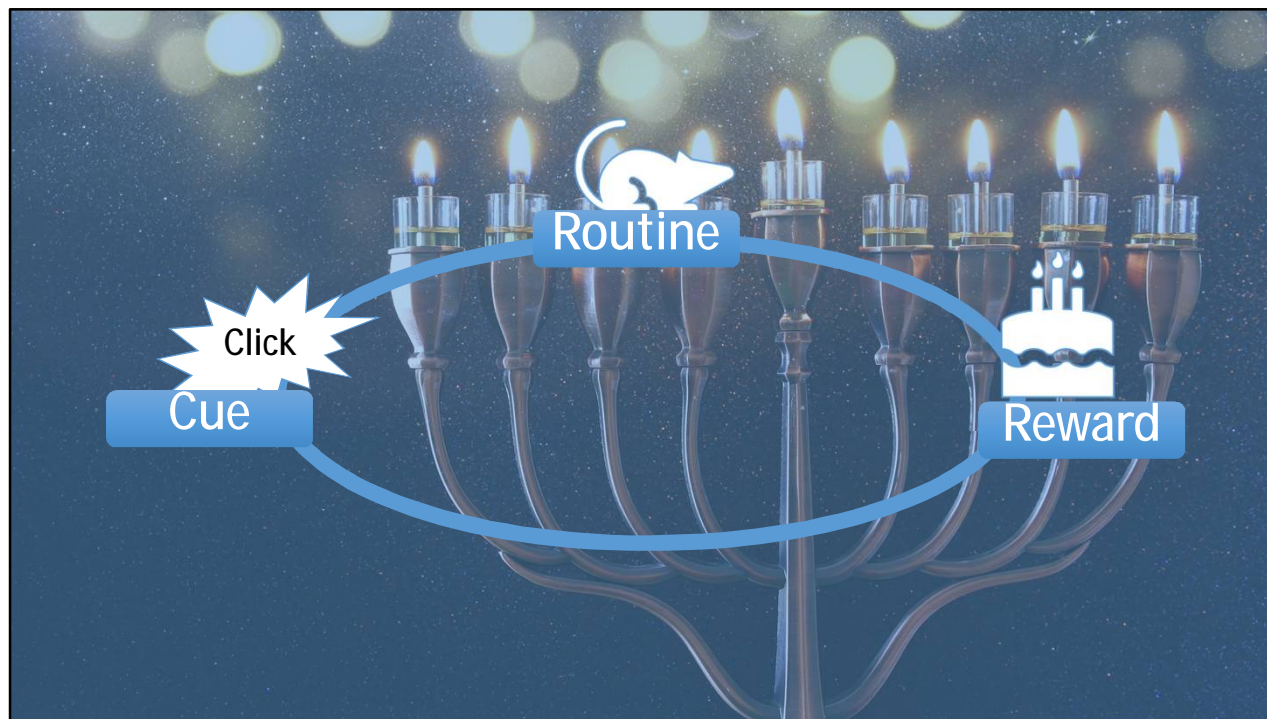
- It wasn't until the 16th century AD that the heliocentric model became the dominant view

There are two reasons for this:

1. From Earth, the Sun, Moon, and planets appear to revolve around the Earth once per day, and the stars appear to rotate on a celestial sphere.
2. The Earth also feels solid, stable, and stationary. Its motion in orbit is so close to a constant speed in a straight line that it's difficult to feel.
3. There was also a religious overtone that God, or the gods, must have put man at the center of the universe.

I say this because it appears from our point of view that we are the center of our own universe.

- This view isn't necessarily evil, but it is flawed.
- God and Christ are at the center.
- But we have grown into the habit of putting ourselves at the center.
- Habits are very difficult to break.



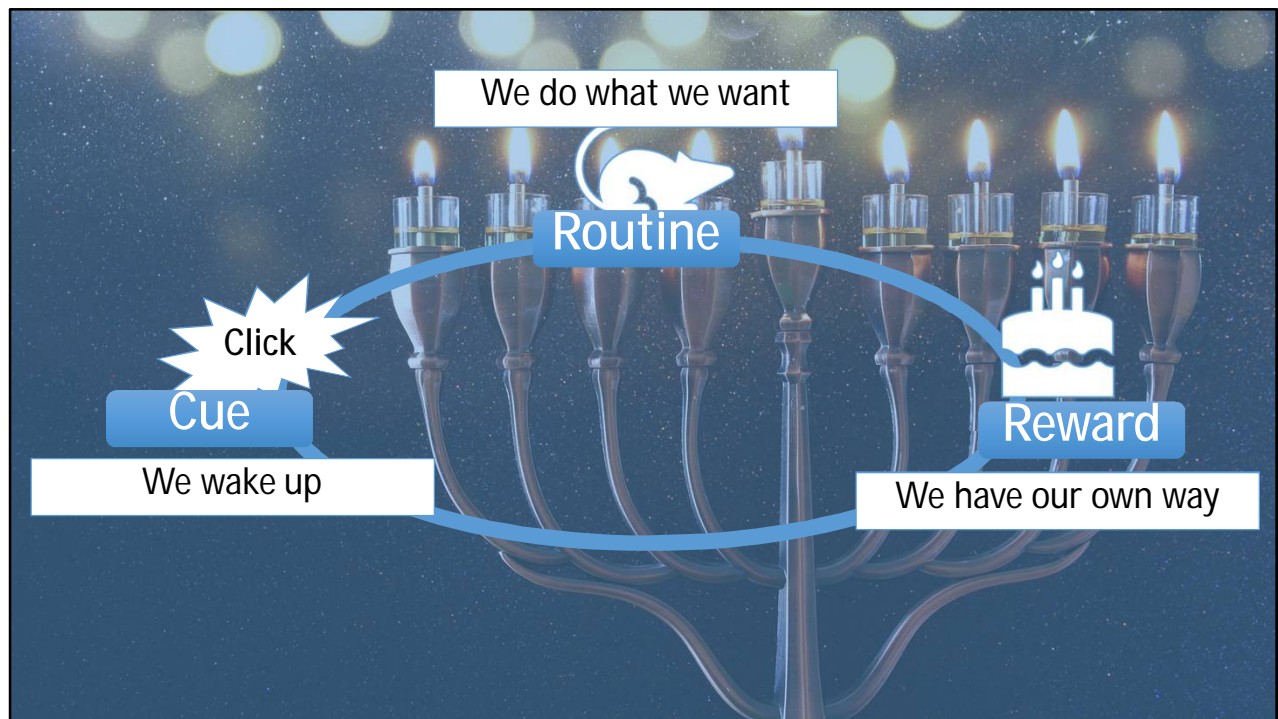
1 big thing: Most of our decisions are not made with critical thinking, but by an amalgamation of habits. The habit loop allows us to learn new habits without the decision-making process, which could be both good or bad.

- The habit loop allows our brain to conserve power and energy by automating tasks so that it can direct its resources to other issues.
- Habits are both powerful and fragile, meaning they can be difficult to overcome, but they can also be broken by slight shifts or change.

The habit loop: Habits can be physical, mental, emotional, or even spiritual. They are driven by cravings, or an anticipation of the reward. Most advertisers use this process in marketing. Satan also uses this pattern, but we should remember, that it's God who formed it. Ultimately, it's meant for good.

1. Cue – can be almost anything, including sight, sound, smells, etc.
2. Routine – here we go into automation mode to conserve brain power
3. Reward – think dopamine, but could also be a feeling like when feeling the Spirit.

The bottom line: The habit loop begins to form through cues, routines, and rewards, but it becomes solidified, even to the point of obsession or addiction, when the brain begins to anticipate the reward to such an extent that it creates neurological cravings.



Our Habit loop:

1. Cue – we wake up
2. Routine – we do what we want
3. Reward – we have our own way

Has anyone ever binged watched a show or binged video games?

- How does it feel afterward? Or even during?
- It's empty, it even hurts.

What would happen if we gave our children a choice to eat cake or vegetables?

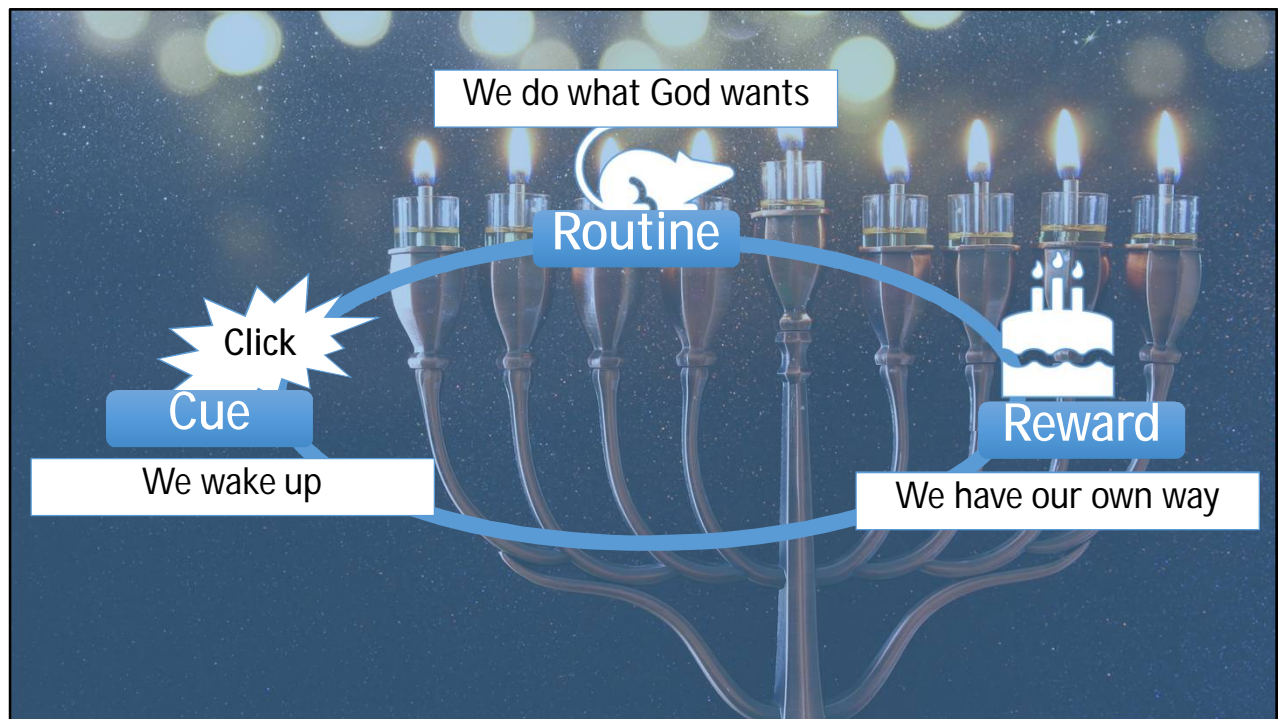
- Most would choose cake
- How would they feel afterward?

The bottom line is that having our own way is often not good for us.

- Has anyone thought, "I wish I could get away from myself for just a moment?"
- Or, "I wish I could stop being me for just a moment?"

Focusing only on ourselves and our wants can be miserable sometimes

- We need a healthy way to escape and receive relief.
- Thankfully, Jesus showed us that way.
- Its called service



Service changes our focus from ourselves to others. In order to change old habits, we must keep the same cues and reward, and change the routine

In other words, we will:

1. Cue – wake up
2. Routine – live God's way (i.e., serve others)
3. Reward – have our own way (righteousness, peace, joy)

By simply changing our routine, we will end up having what we want, which is joy, peace, and love

- Here's the conundrum we face in this life:
- The world says do whatever you want, this will make you happy
- God says sacrifice, this will make you happy
- Which one seems true to you?

We need to shift our mind.

- As children, life is about things
- Christmas, birthdays, and toys

Eventually, most of us transition into the second stage, life becomes about experiences

- First crush, date, kiss
- First taste of independence
- Experience of winning, of popularity, etc.

As we mature further, we start realize life is about people

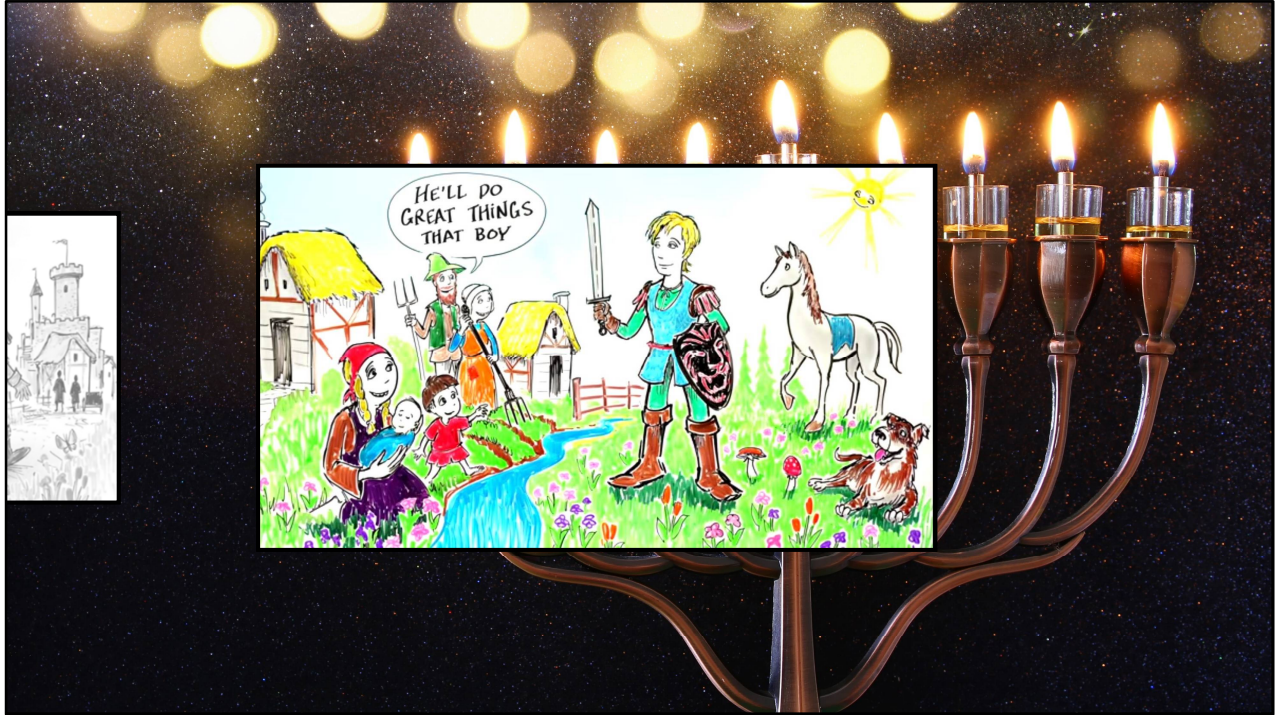
- Possessions and experiences can enhance life, but they don't provide meaning
- When we realize that life is about people, everything in our life will change

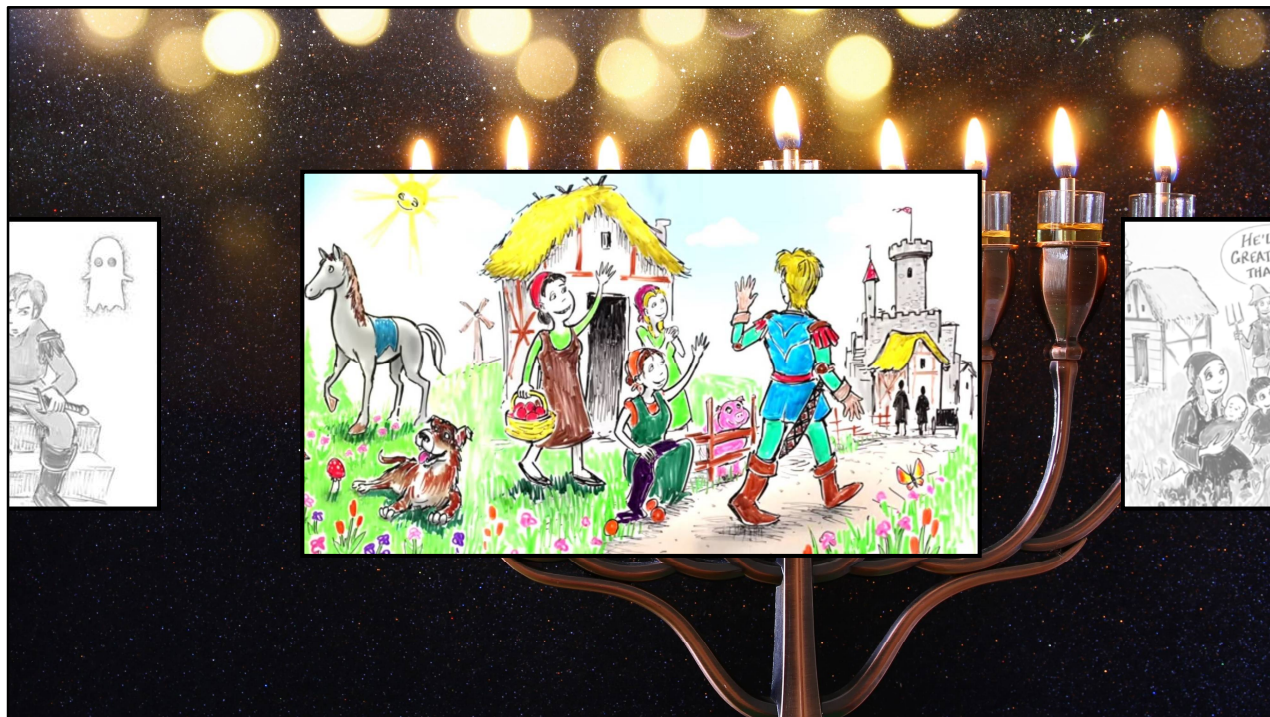


Focusing on others and how to serve them provides relief and healing

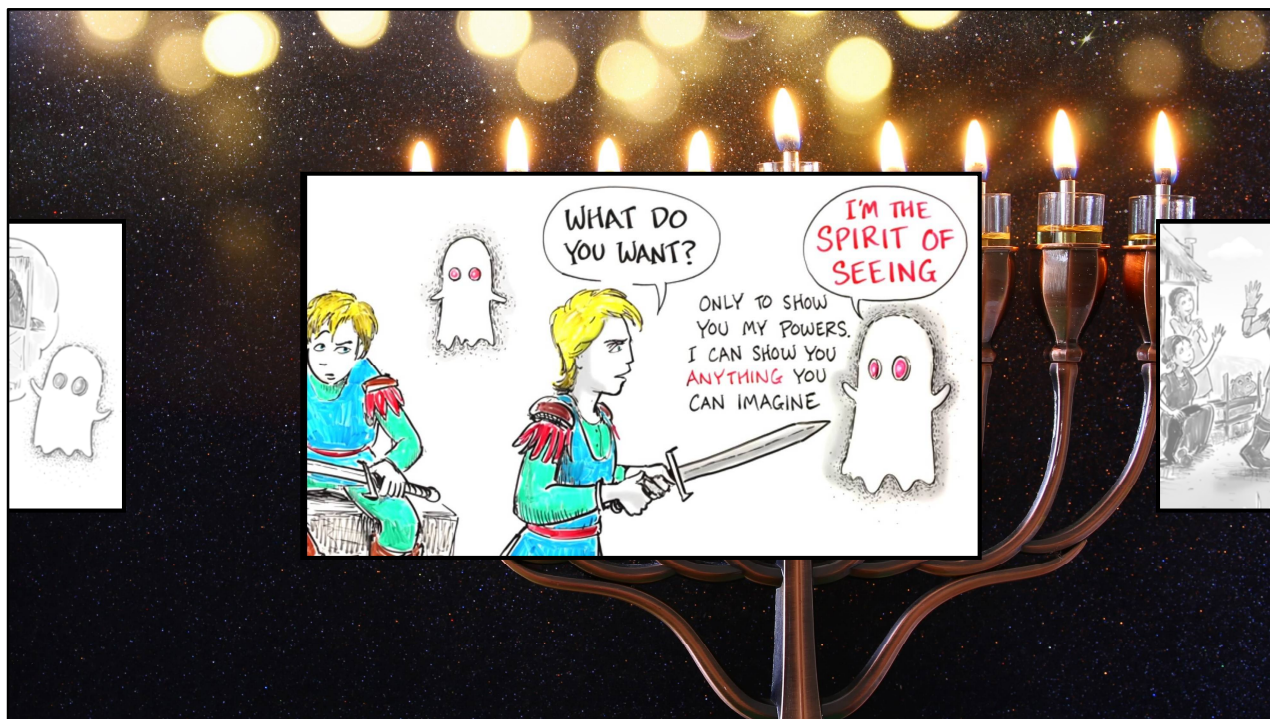
- Just like an inversion table, which allows oxygen to enter into the spinal column
- Focusing on others, lifts our self from off our self,
- Or even, out of our self.

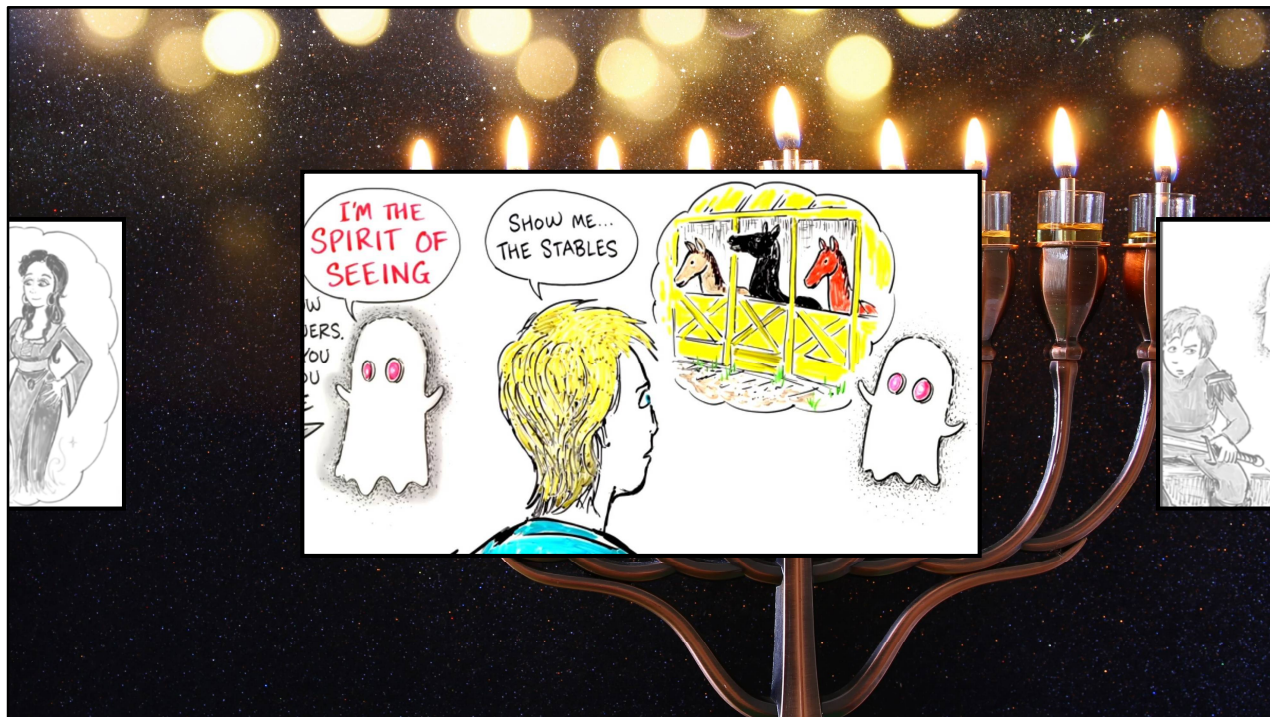
This is what Jesus did.

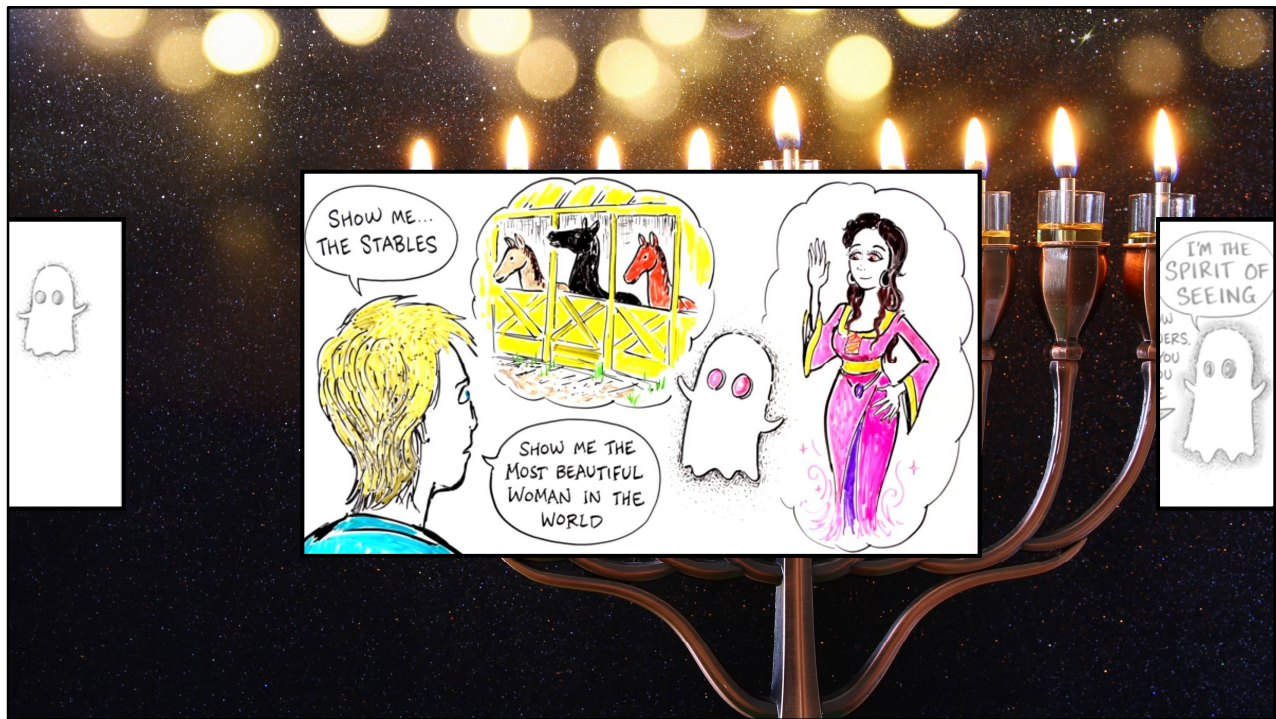


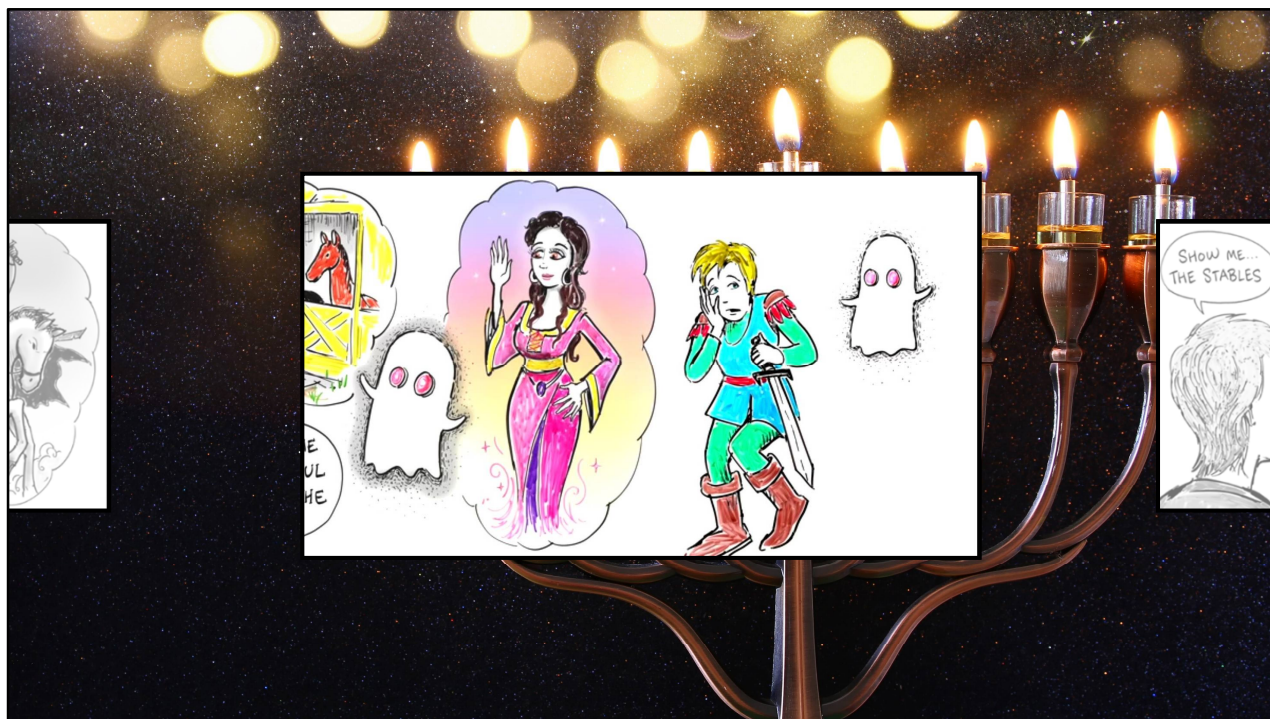


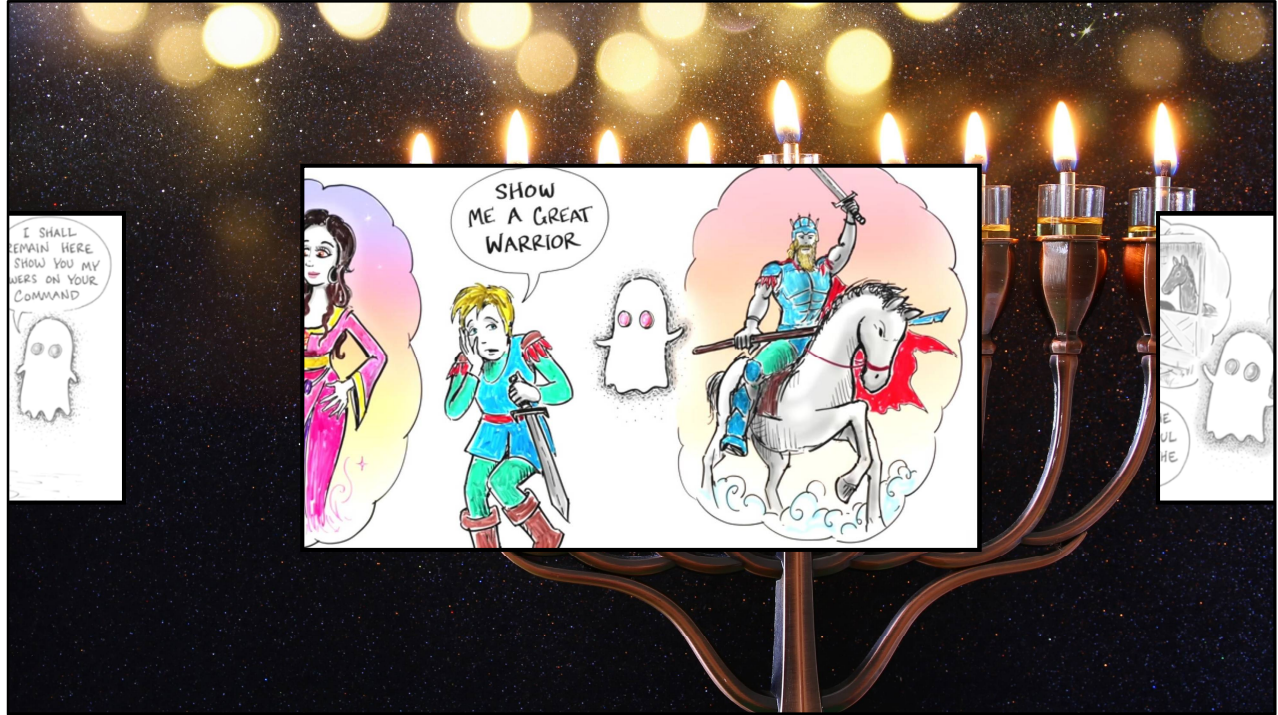


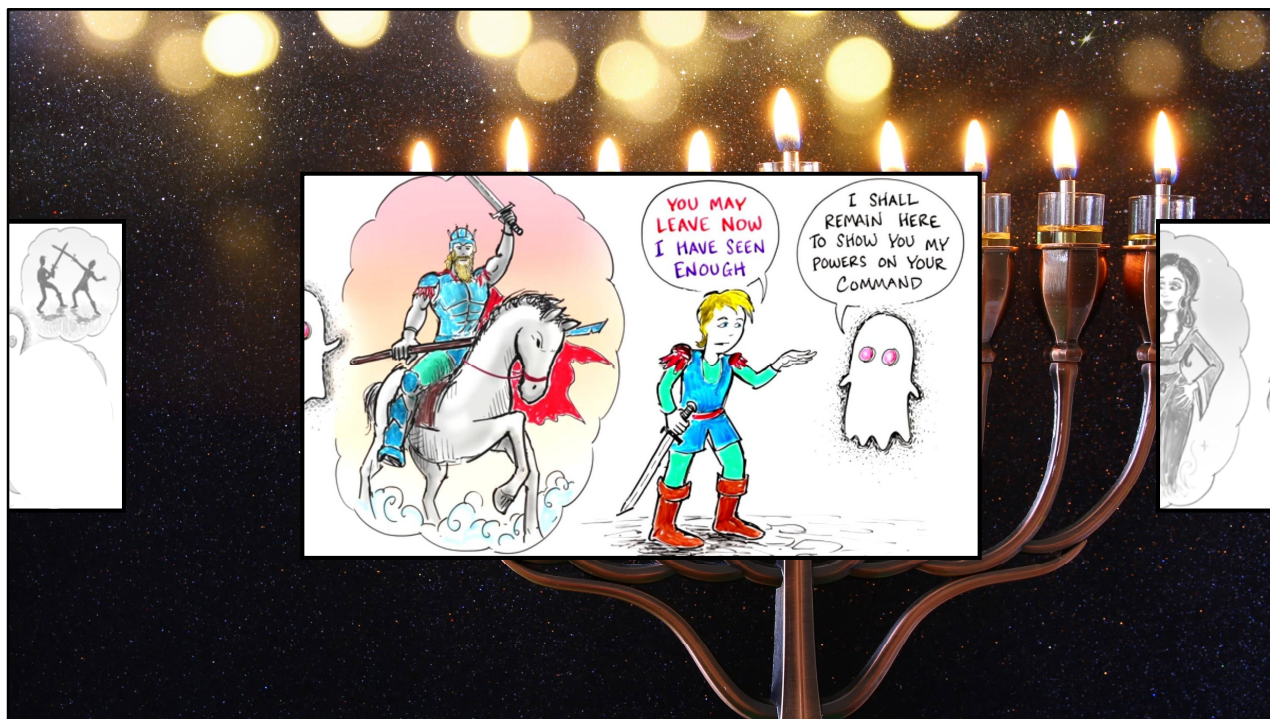


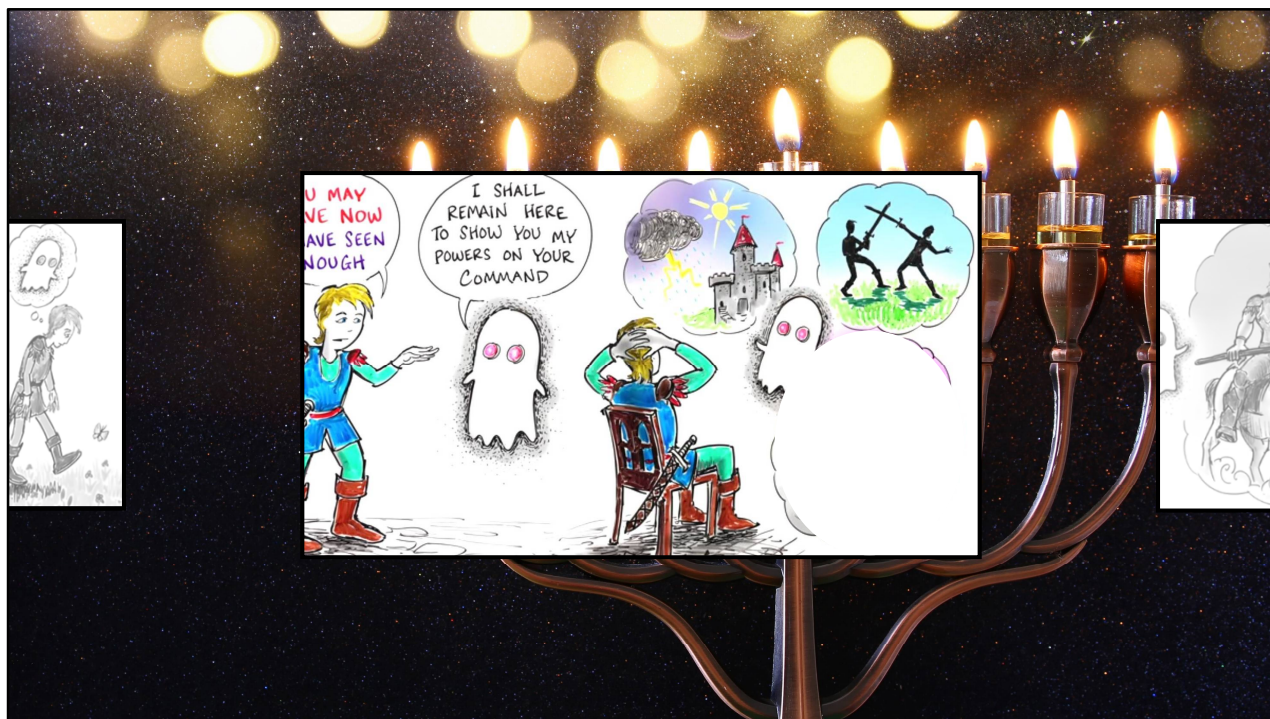


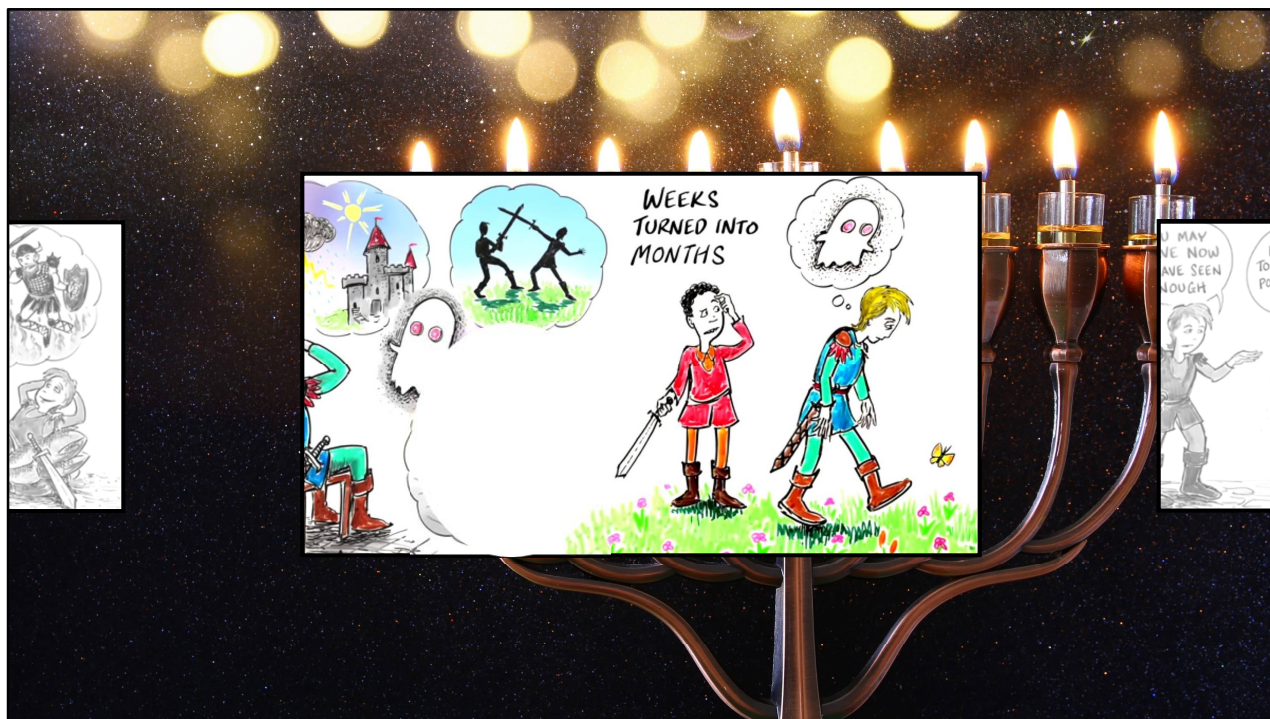


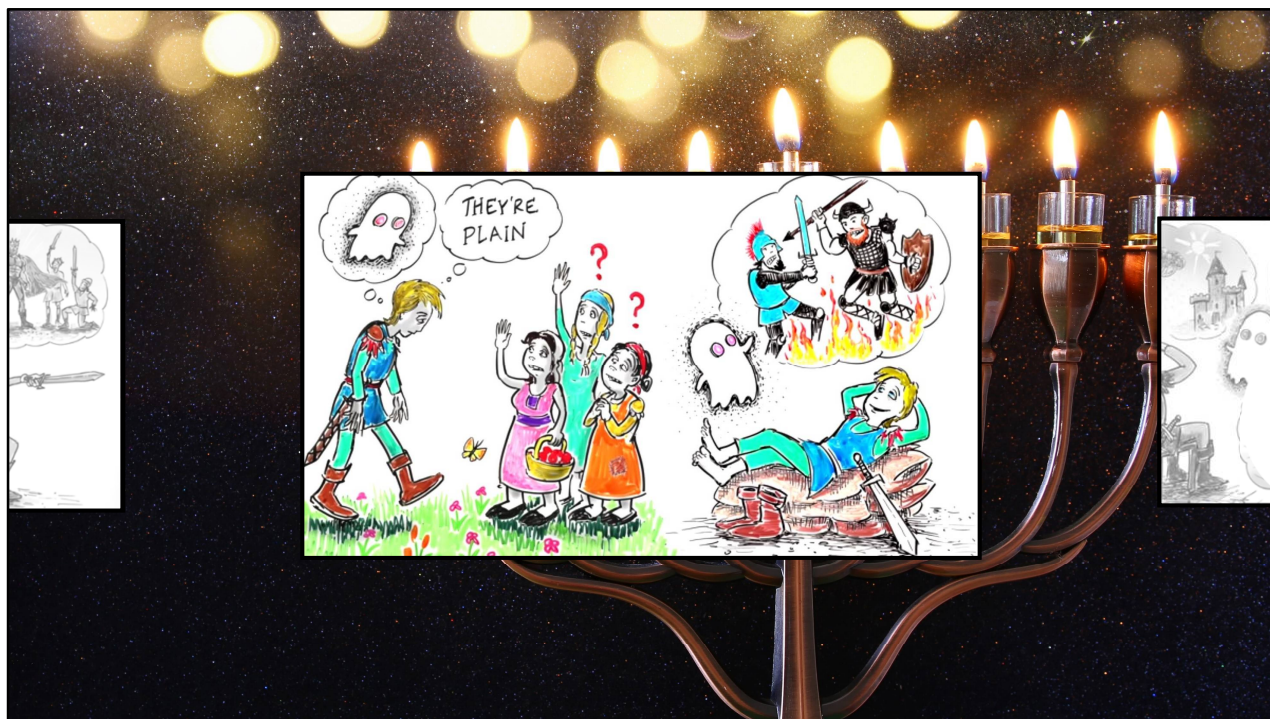


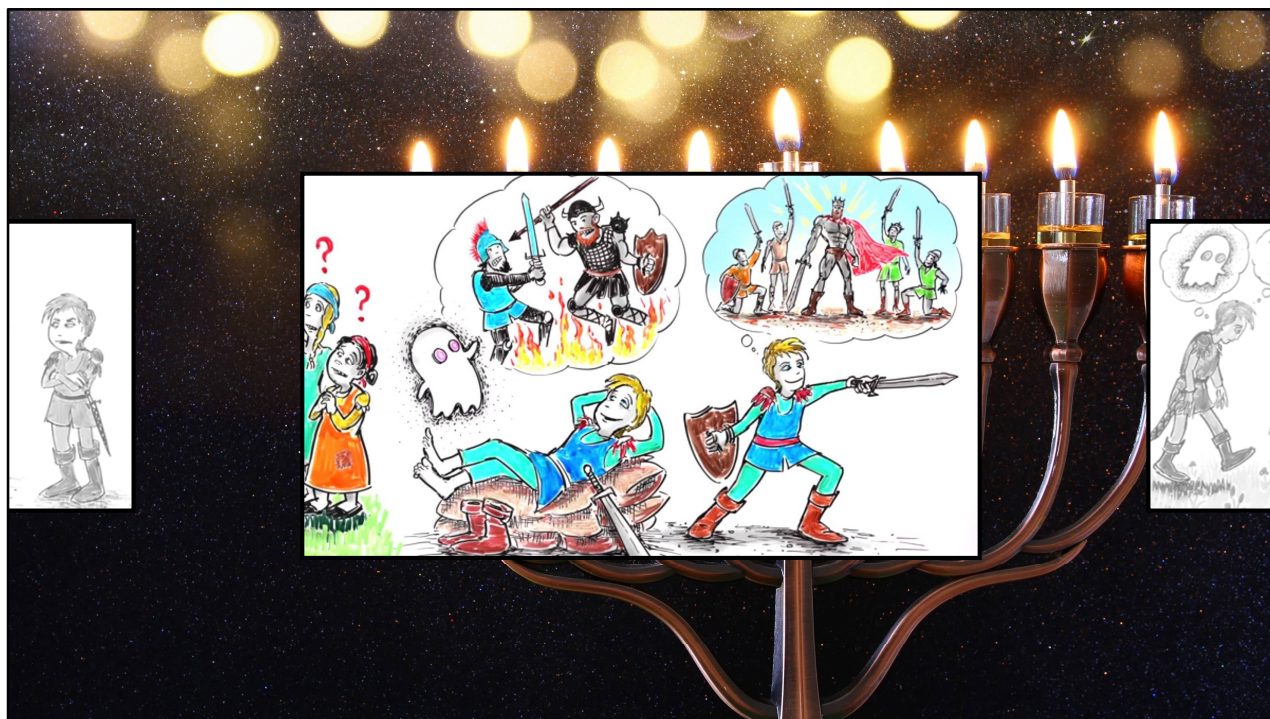


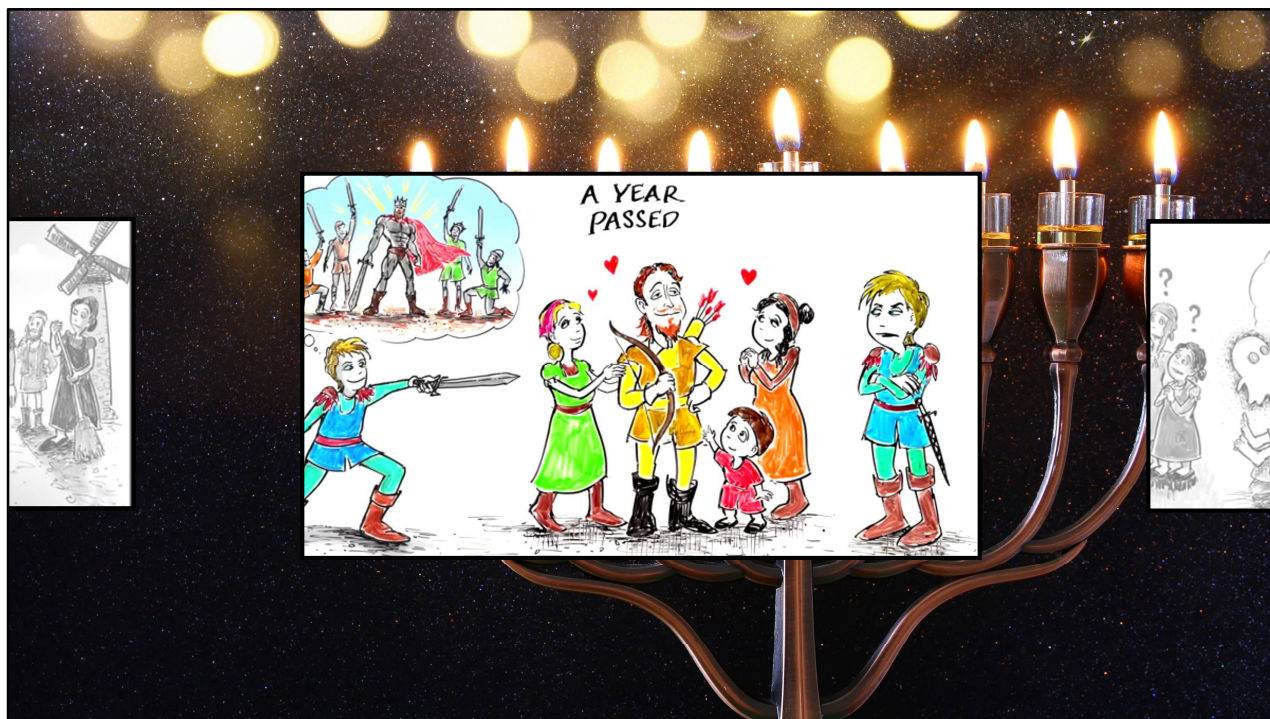


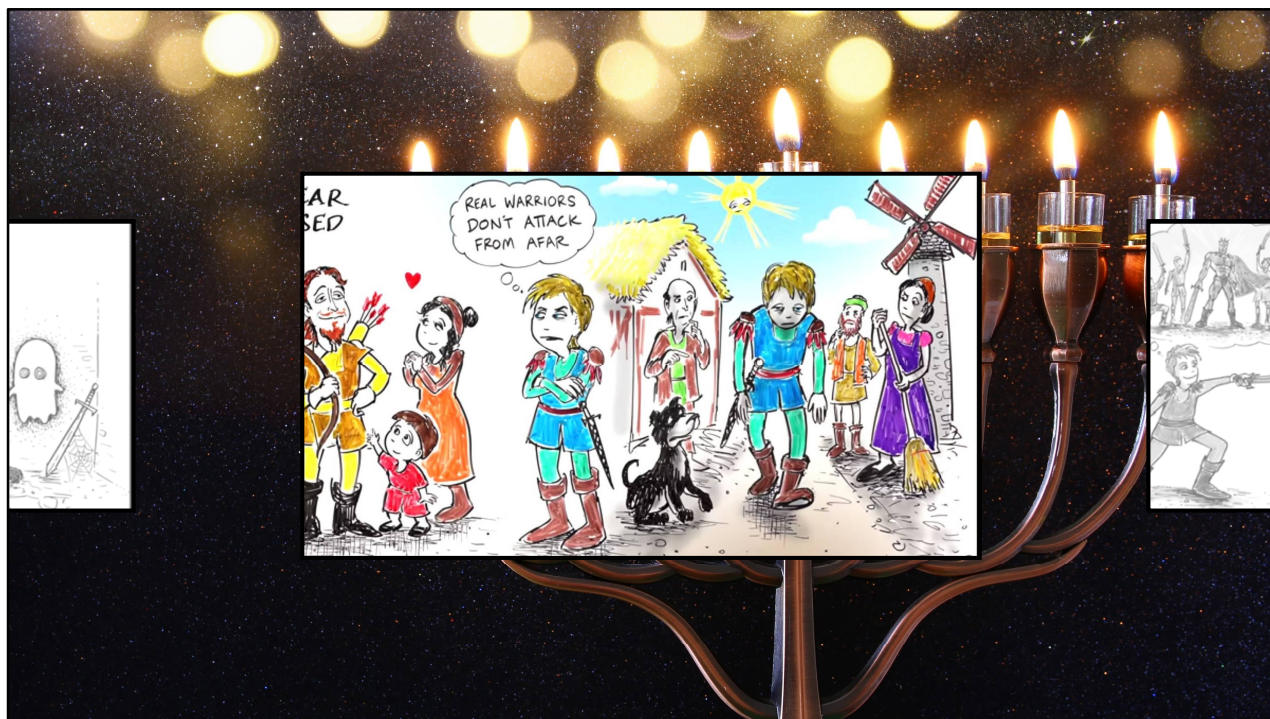




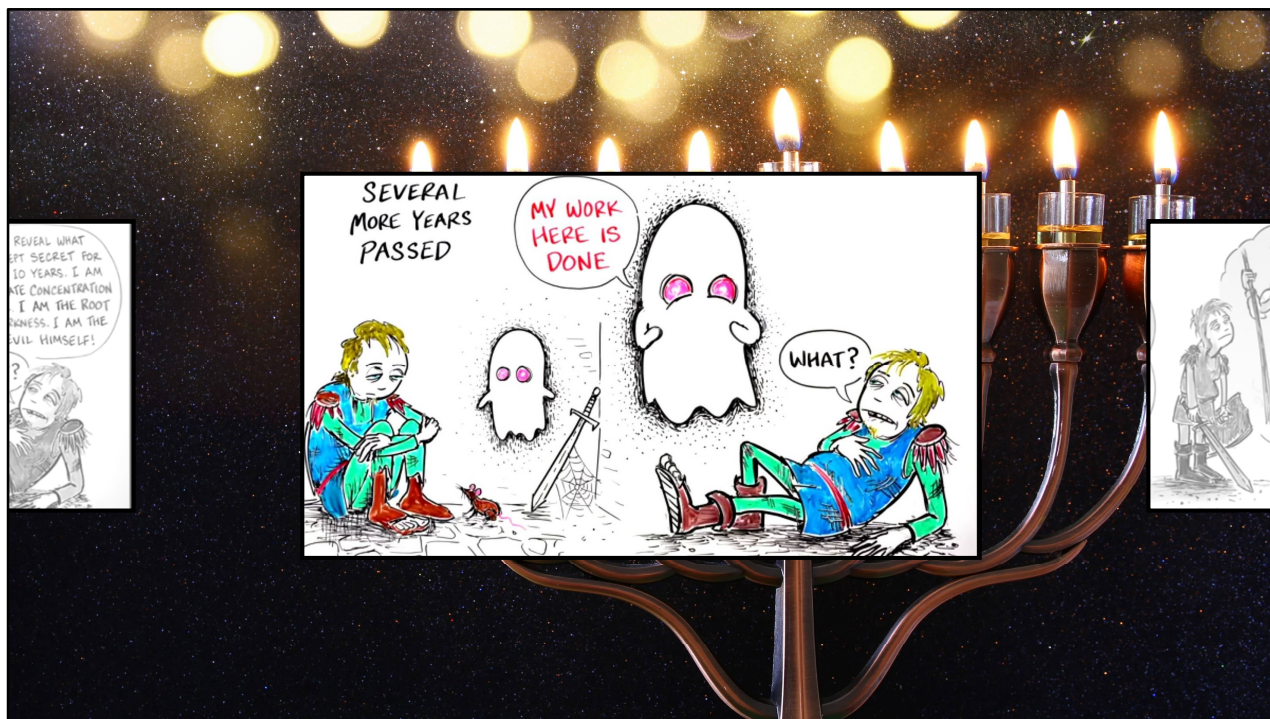


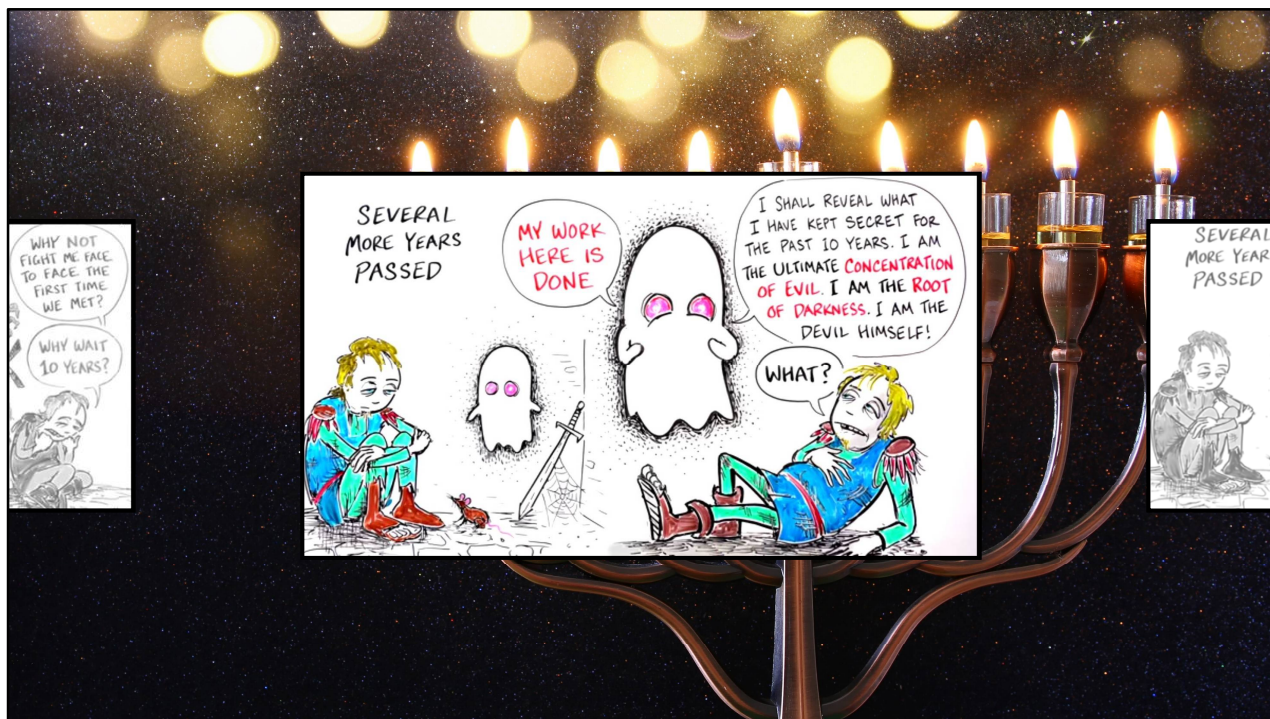


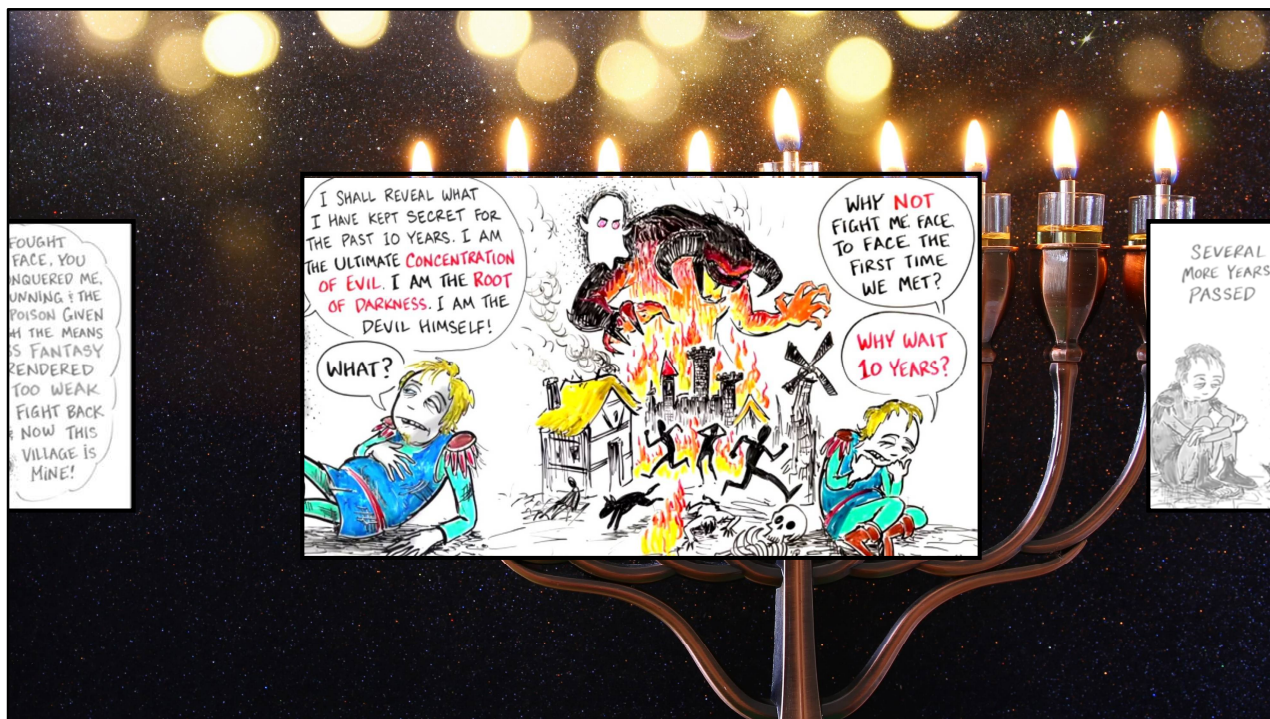




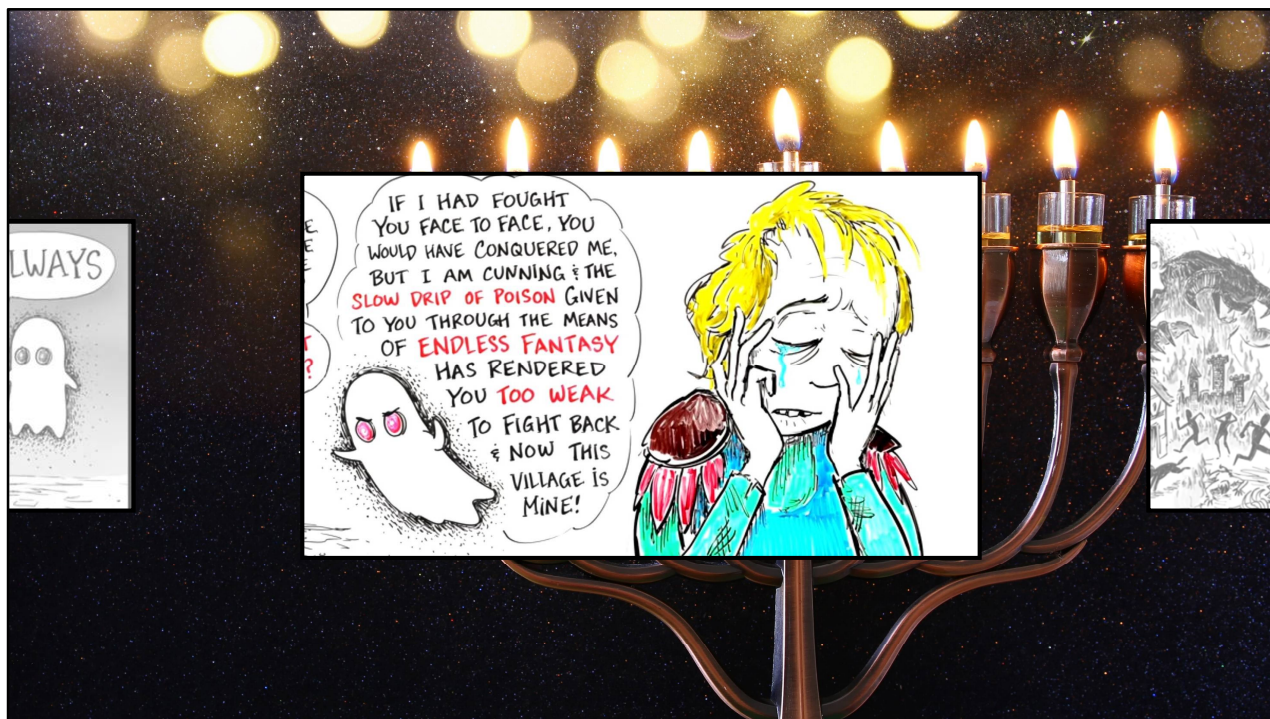


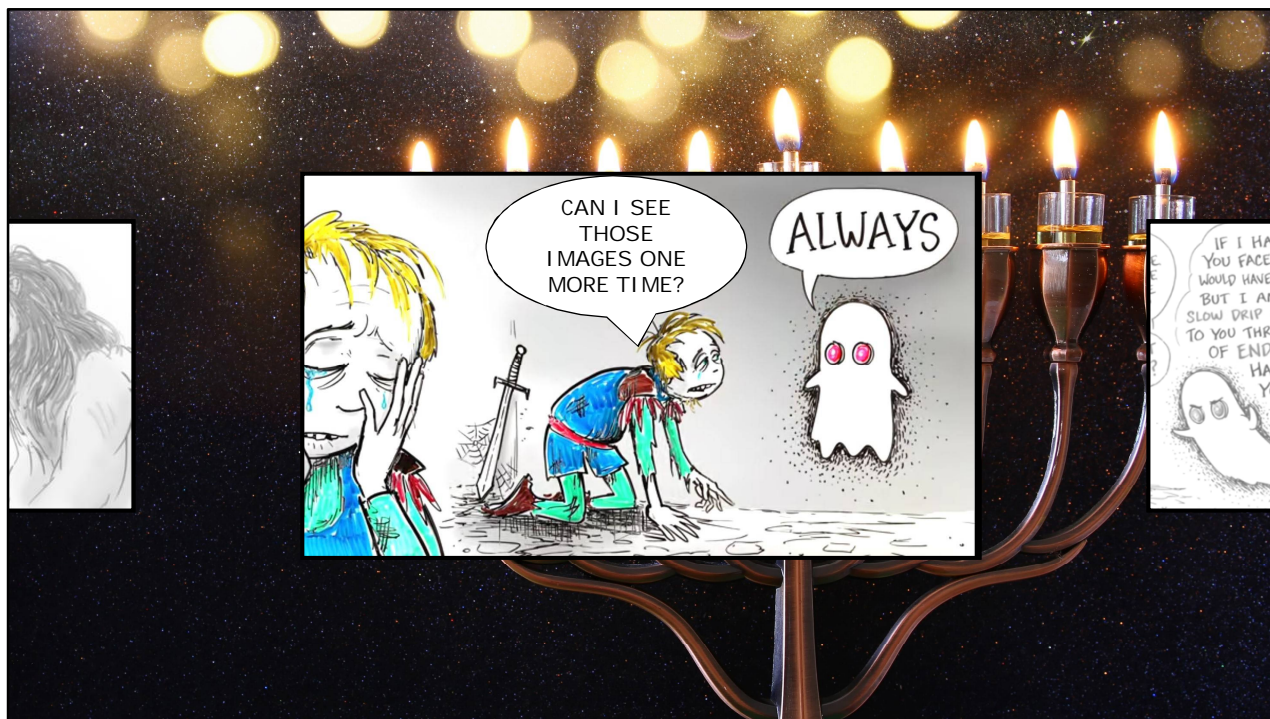


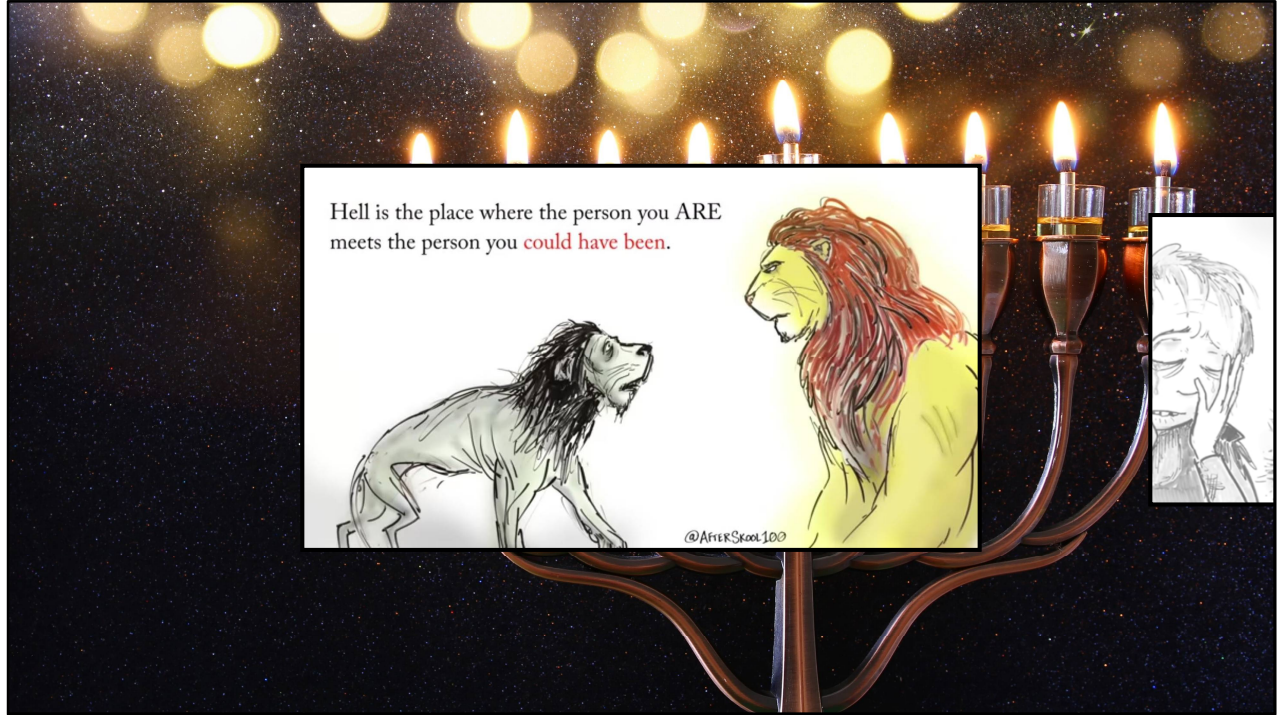














Satan doesn't want us in this fight between good and evil.

- He doesn't want us to realize that we are soldiers for Christ.
- He wants to snuff out our light just as he did with the boy who wanted to be a knight.

Three things could have helped this boy:

- Even just one of these things would have prevented this tragedy.

This isn't the future that God wants for you!

- This boy didn't seek to be evil
- He didn't seek to hurt others or let them down
- But the path he chose did not lead to happiness.



God wants you with Him more than anything!

- He has so much in store for you

We spent three months in Australia on a missionary trip

- During that time, we were blessed with the opportunity to go to rainbow beach
- At one point, I looked at Michael as he played with the sand
- I realized that he had no understanding of the beauty that surrounded him
- The Lord spoke to my mind, and I realized that I had no understanding of the beauty of what surrounded me
- Nor did I have an understanding of the beauty of what's to come
- 1 Corinthians 2:9

Does it pay to serve God?

- I'm here to testify to you, absolutely! 100%!



We started this class by talking about Exodus 27:20-21 and Hanukkah

- God commanded the Israelites to have an eternal flame in the sanctuary
- We finish with Jesus telling us in the parable of the 10 virgins...
- that we need to have an eternal flame in our sanctuary
- Our sanctuary is our heart.

• ?

^{10b}) And at that day when I shall come in my glory, shall the parable be fulfilled which I spake concerning the ten virgins; for they that are wise and have received the truth, and have taken the Holy Spirit for their guide, and have not been deceived, verily I say unto you, ^{10c}) They shall not be hewn down and cast into the fire, but shall abide the day, and the earth shall be given unto them for an inheritance; ^{10d}) and they shall multiply and wax strong, and their children shall grow up without sin unto salvation, for the Lord shall be in their midst, and his glory shall be upon them, and he will be their King and their lawgiver.

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