

Is There a “Right” Way to Light on Chanukah? Comprehension Questions

Comprehension Questions on Talmud Shabbat 21b

1. According to the Sages in the *baraita*, how does one do the “basic” mitzvah of lighting Chanukah candles each day?

2. If you were doing the “basic” mitzvah of lighting Chanukah candles, how many candles would you light on the 6th night?

3. According to the Sages in the *baraita*, how does one do the “*mehadrin*” version of lighting Chanukah candles?

4. If you were doing the “*mehadrin*” mitzvah of lighting Chanukah candles, and there were 4 people in your household, how many candles would be lit on the 6th night?

5. Regarding the *mehadrin min hamehadrin* practice, whose opinion is mentioned first? Whose is second?

6. According to Beit Shammai, how many candles would you light on the 3rd night? And how many according to Beit Hillel?

7. According to Ulla, what were the *Amoraim* in *Eretz Yisrael* arguing about?

8. Explain the reasoning for Beit Shammai's position:

9. Explain the reasoning for Beit Hillel's position:

10. What information does Rabba bar Bar Hanna **add** to Ulla?

Comprehension Questions on Talmud Eruvin 13b

1. How long of a time period did Beit Shammai and Beit Hillel's disagreement last?

2. Who made the final decision? Why did this need to happen?

3. Cite the reason why God "sided" with Beit Hillel:

4. Does this mean that Beit Shammai's opinion was incorrect? Explain.

5. According to this Gemara, what are the two necessary criteria for having an opinion be the accepted one?

6. How does this Gemara connect with the Gemara in *Shabbat* 21b regarding how we light Chanukah candles?

Comprehension Questions on Mishnah Avot 5:17

1. What is the functional difference between a *makhloket l'sheim Shamayim* and a *makhloket lo l'sheim Shamayim*?

2. According to the Mishnah, who is the exemplar of a *makhloket l'sheim Shamayim*?

3. According to the Mishnah, who is the exemplar of a *makhloket lo l'sheim Shamayim*?

4. Based on this text from *Parashat Korakh*, where is the inconsistency and/or lack of parallelism in the comparison found in Mishnah Avot?

5. How does *Malbim's* explanation clarify the inconsistency in the Mishnah?

Comprehension Questions on Talmud Bavli Yevamot 14b

1. Despite significant differences in opinion regarding *halakha*, what did the communities of Beit Shammai and Beit Hillel continue to do?

2. Which group is mentioned first in the Gemara?

3. How did the two groups behave towards one another?

4. What guided them in their behavior?

5. What does the *pasuk* from *Zechariah* tell us to do?
