



Spin The Dreidel Scripture Mastery Game



This is a Scripture Mastery version of the traditional Dreidel game that is popular during the Jewish Hanukkah season each year. Rather than playing in groups, I like playing this as individuals in the class trying to get the best score (like playing “Scripture Man”. That makes it work better for classes that can be too competitive. Before playing, you might want to explain a little history about the Dreidel (see the bottom of the page).

Each player will need a paper on which to keep their score. To play the game, give a Scripture Mastery clue and then count down 15 seconds and call “Time”. Then ask the class what the right reference was. Then those who got to the right place in their scriptures in time get to see what the Dreidel spin has for them. Students who got there in time will need to call out 1, 2, or 3. Then you the teacher will then spin the Dreidel 3 times and the students will get the points accordingly to what ever their spin gives them. If you have more than one dreidel, you can spin them all at once. If you are spinning 3 times, you can speed it up by slapping your hand down on the dreidel, to decide faster. The points are:

ג (Gimel) = 100 points

ה (Hey) = 50 points

נ (Nun) = 0 points

ש (Shin) = Lose 25 points

So the more often they can get to the reference in time, the more points they can possibly get. As they get the hang of the game, go to 10 seconds or less so it is always a challenge to get there in time.

Wikipedia says: The dreidel, or *sevivon* in Hebrew, is a four-sided spinning top that children play with on Hanukkah. Each side is imprinted with a Hebrew letter. These letters are an acronym for the Hebrew words **נס גדול היה שם** (*Nes Gadol Haya Sham*, "A great miracle happened there"), referring to the miracle of the oil that took place in the lamps during Hanukkah

After lighting the Hanukkah menorah, it is customary in many homes to play the dreidel game. The dreidel is believed to commemorate a game devised by the Jews to camouflage the fact that they were studying the Torah, which was outlawed by Greeks. The Jews would gather in caves to study, posting a lookout to alert the group to the presence of Greek soldiers. If soldiers were spotted, the Jews would hide their scrolls and spin tops, so the Greeks thought they were gambling, not learning.