

Exploring Why

Menorah

An Aled and Siân Book



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Menorah

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Bear Lands Publishing

About Aled and Siân

Aled and Siân love exploring the places where they live and the places they go to visit. They enjoy playing 'I Spy' to help them get to know these places better. In the *Exploring Why* series Aled and Siân are curious to find out why some of the things around them are important to their Christian, Jewish and Muslim friends.

The series takes seriously the social significance of religion and is based on extensive research into how children learn about themselves, others and the world in which they live.

To support this storybook series, there is a large range of free downloadable resources for children and teachers available at hwb.wales.gov.uk/Resources and st-marys-centre.org.uk

The storybooks and activities are devised for 5- to 7-year-olds, but the downloadable resources make the series relevant for younger and older children too.

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Titles in the *Exploring Why* series are:

Bread
Cross
Light
Menorah
Veil
Water
Symbols of Faith





Aled and Siân are playing 'I spy'. Today they are looking for menorahs. I wonder how many menorahs they will see and where they will see them.



Aled and Siân walk down the street and stop to gaze through the window into Rebecca's Café.



There among the photos and cards on the mantelpiece they see a Hanukkah menorah. “I wonder why the menorah is so important?” said Aled.



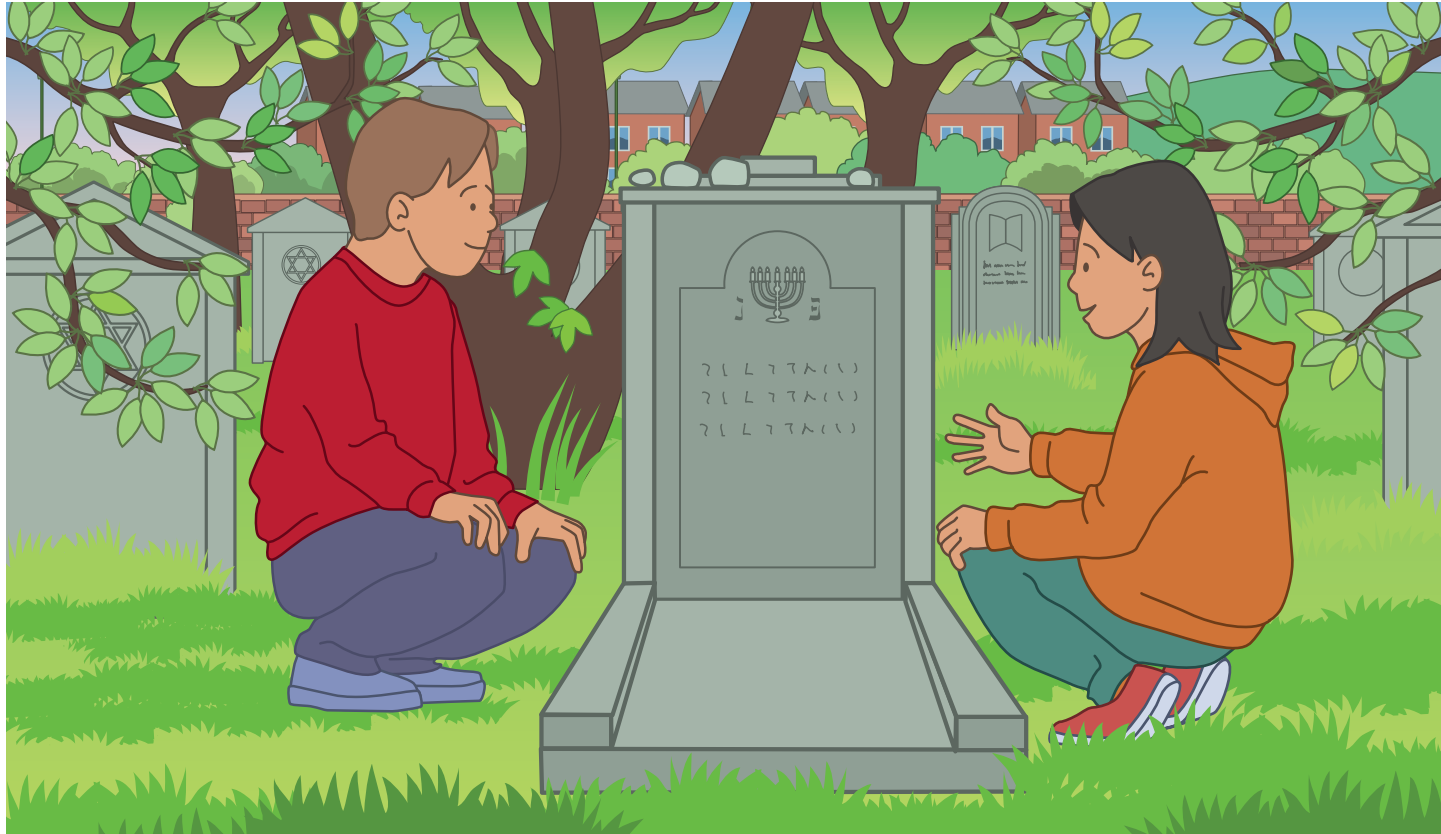
Aled and Siân continue their walk to the playground and stop to look at the swings, the climbing frame and the people.



There among the people they see a young woman wearing a necklace with a silver menorah. “I wonder why the menorah is so important?” said Siân.



Aled and Siân continue their walk to the Jewish cemetery and stop to gaze at the headstones.



There among the Star of David and Hebrew words they spot a menorah. “I wonder why the menorah is so important?” said Aled.



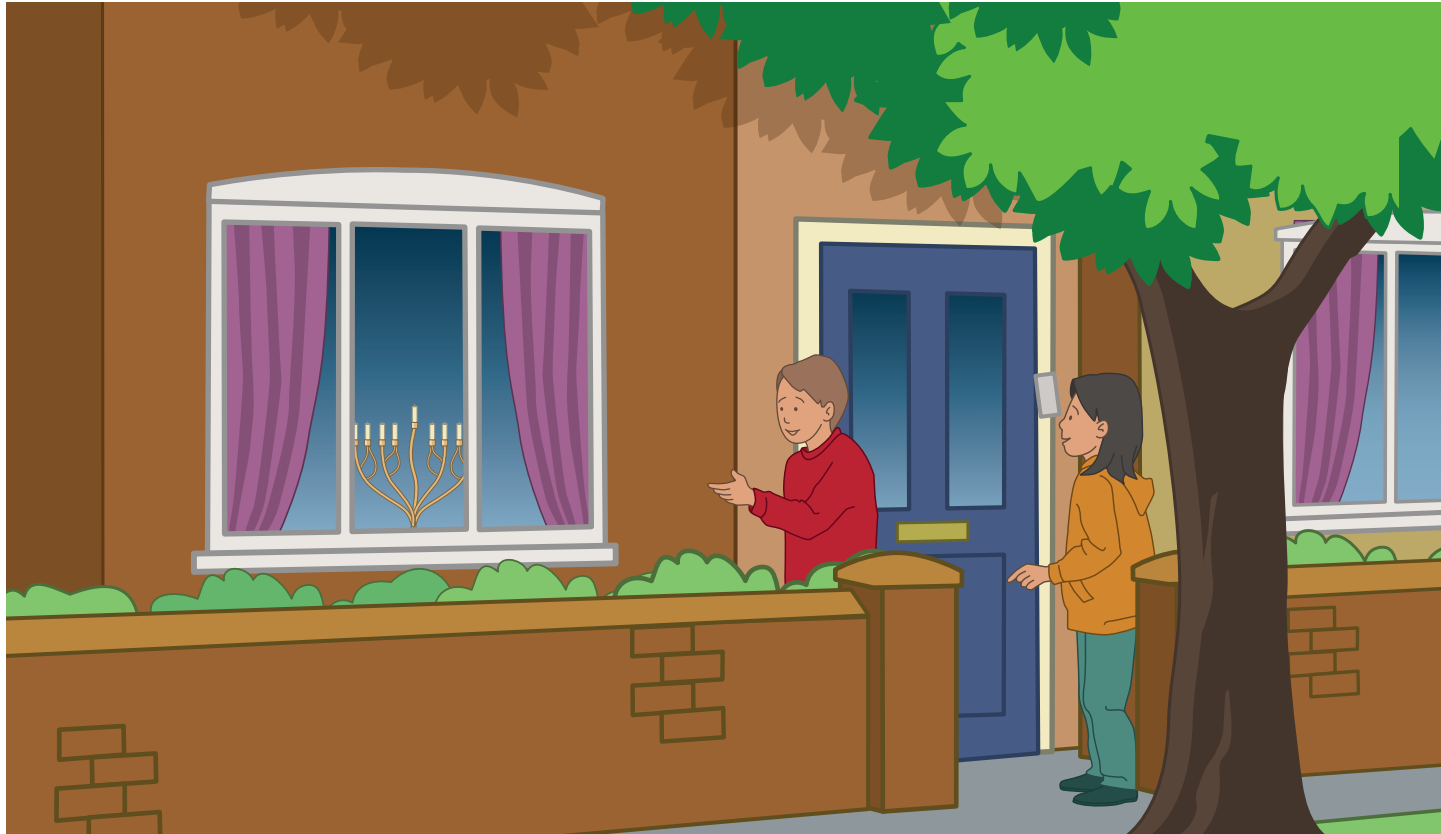
Aled and Siân continue their walk past the music shop and stop to gaze at the CDs in the window.



There among pictures of orchestras, choirs and bands they see a picture of a menorah. “I wonder why the menorah is so important?” said Siân.



Aled and Siân continue their walk to the house where their friends Nathan and Rachel live.



There in Nathan and Rachel's window is a Hanukkah menorah, with outstretched branches. "I wonder why the menorah is so important?" said Aled.



Nathan and Rachel take Aled and Siân to the synagogue near their house to look around.



There inside the synagogue they see a menorah in a stained-glass window. “I wonder why the menorah is so important?” said Siân.



Nathan and Rachel take Aled and Siân to the ark and begin to tell them why the menorah is so important to their family.



Nathan and Rachel show them a lamp and a menorah on a Torah scroll cover. “The menorah reminds us of the Temple in Jerusalem where the menorah’s light was a sign of God’s presence.”



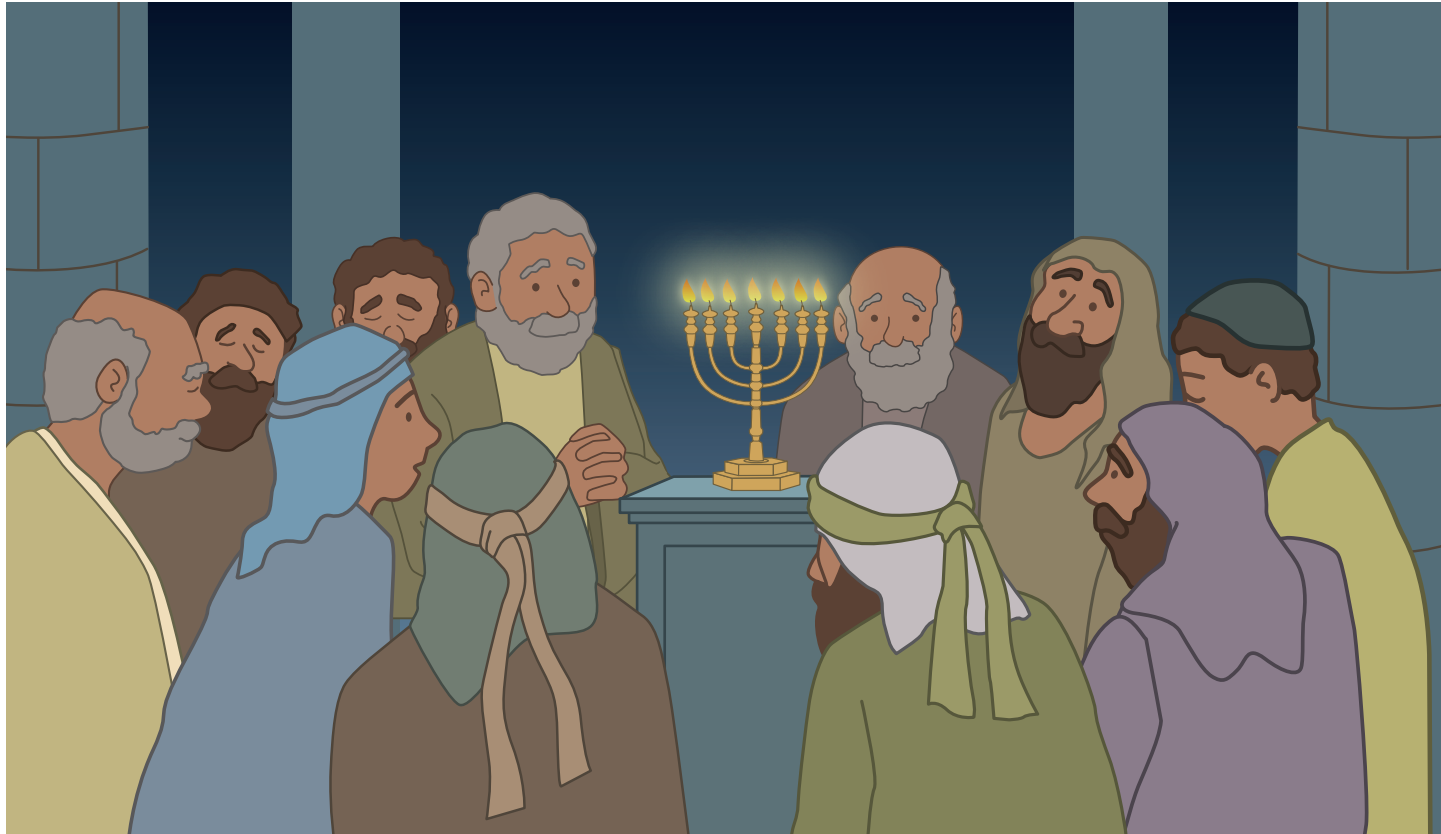
Nathan and Rachel tell them the Hanukkah story which happened thousands of years ago.



They hear how King Antiochus tried to destroy the Jewish way of life by forcing people to forget God's law and to worship other gods.



Judas Maccabeus and his brothers refused to obey the King, and they fought bravely and defeated the King's armies.



They hear about the miracle in the Temple, when God kept the menorah light burning for 8 days until more oil arrived.



Nathan and Rachel carefully light the candles on their Hanukkah menorah, moving from left to right.



For each of the 8 nights of Hanukkah, they light a new candle and remember the miracle in the Temple and God's presence with them.



As Aled and Siân wave goodbye to their friends, the lights of their Hanukkah menorah shine in the darkness. “Now we know why the menorah is so important!” said Aled and Siân together.

Aled and Siân are playing 'I Spy' and today they are looking for 'Menorahs'. They find menorahs in all kinds of places around where they live. When Aled and Siân visit their friends, Nathan and Rachel, they start asking an important question – "I wonder why the menorah is so important?" With the help of Nathan and Rachel, Aled and Siân begin to find some answers.

