Moving Traditions

Maccabee Mad Libs

More than 2,000 years ago, the Land of _____ **[name of a place]** was ruled by the Seleucid (Suh-loo-sid) Empire, a Greek kingdom. Greek culture was everywhere: Greek gods, Greek sports, Greek _____ **[plural noun]**, and Greek names. Some Jews loved these new ways and _____ **[adverb]** took them on. Others worried that Judaism would disappear.

The King of the Empire, King Antiochus, however, decided that everyone must live the Greek way. He made it against the law for Jews to keep Shabbat, study Torah, or follow other Jewish _____ **[plural noun]**. His soldiers broke into the Temple in Jerusalem and set up a statue of the Greek god _____ **[name]**.

An old Jewish priest named _____ **[another name]** bravely fought back. He and his _____ **[number]** children escaped to the hills, and he called out, "Whoever is loyal to _____ **[something Jewish]**, follow me!"

His son Judah became the leader of the Jewish fighters. People called him Judah the Maccabee, which means "the _____ **[noun]**." The Maccabees were a _____ **[adjective]** group facing a huge army that even had war _____ **[animals]**! But they would not give up and eventually they won.

The Greeks had left the Temple a mess. The Maccabees cleaned the Temple and relit the menorah again. They had only a little _____ **[liquid]** left, but it miraculously burned for 8 days. The Maccabees _____ **[verb ending in –ed]** all 8 days. Today, we remember the Maccabees' victory and the miracle of the _____ **[same liquid you said earlier]** every year during Hanukkah.