DVAR TORAH – TU B'SHVAT
Rabbi Dan Moskovitz

1. Have you ever wondered why we have two Shabbat candles? Last Friday night my 3 year old asked me that question as we did Shabbat. Candles had become very important to him as the day before was his birthday and we made a big deal out of counting how many candles were on his cake.

2. So why two candles on Shabbat? I told my 3 year old because two candles were more beautiful than one – and that satisfied him – he was at that point much more interested in the grape juice and challah that was silently calling his attention.

3. Our tradition says that the two candles remind us that every Jewish holiday has at its heart both a spiritual purpose and a practical purpose based on logic. Shamor v' Zachor protect & remember the Sabbath day we are commanded. And yet the practical application applies as well, in ancient times homes had two rooms – since you can't light fire once Shabbat begins – one candle for each room!

4. Our tradition also teaches that every holiday has a clear theme