Temple Sholom Chanukah Rap 5778

Rabbi: "let's get a beat going…"

Repetition a 3-5 times of the refrain:

Light those lights for Chanukah
Eight little candles in our chanukiah

Dan:
I suppose you know the story of this holiday
Candles, presents, and dreidels to play. (hold up each item)

Carey:
Why it happened a long, long time ago,
In the city of Jerusalem, don'tcha know.

Alex:
A guy named Antiochus was the ruler of Greece.
He tried to stir up trouble and disrupt the peace.
He ordered the Jews not the study the Torah,
Not to sing to God or dance the Horah. (grapevine step)

Annette:
He destroyed the Temple and the people who prayed.
He terrorized the Israelite in every way.
He tried to break the people's spirit, this mighty Greek.
Tried to hurt all the Jews and make them weak.

Dan:
It seemed that there was little hope left for a Jew.
But, there were those who kept their faith through and through.

ALL: (2x times)
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Carey:
Mattathias had five sons, brave as could be. (five fingers)
And the strongest of them was Judah Maccabee.

Dan:
Sure you heard of him – his name means hammer – (hold up Hammer)
'Cause his strength was so great it made the enemy stammer.

Alex:
Well they whooped 'um good, Mattathias and his sons.
They chased the bad guys out, every one.
They reclaimed the Temple in Jerusalem,
And cleaned it all up for the Holy One. (hold up broom)

Annette:
Got a brand-new ark and some new upholstery,
Hung a new Mezuzah and a new tapestry. (Hold up Mezzuzah)
The interior designer made a proclamation:
"We are ready at last for a rededication."

Carey:
Dedication of what? Why the answer's quite simple –
ALL: Dedication of the holy placed called the Temple.

ALL: (2x times)
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Alex:
Now there is yet another myth attached to this story,
that adds to Judah Maccabee's fame and glory.

Dan:
The problem you see, was the Eternal Light; (hold up menorah)
supposed to burn all day and then all night.
To burn for eight days you need a special oil. (hold up olive oil bottle)
But there was none to be found. The celebration was spoiled.

Carey:
They searched high and low. They searched here and there
For some oil to burn, but there was none to spare.
Until Judah Maccabee, bold and brave,
Found a jar somewhere buried deep in a cave.

Annettee:
There was just enough oil to burn one day
But some strange miracle happened, they say:

ALL:
That little jar of oil, it lasted for eight!
There was light in the Temple for eight days <u>STRAIGHT</u>!

ALL: (2x times)
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Dan:
Well the people were joyous, it was some occasion!
For eight whole days they had a celebration.

Carey:
Listen up, you hear, with some concentration:
Chanukah, it means rededication.
Rededication – dedication I say.
That's the true meaning of this holiday.

Dan:
Now I don't want to spoil any of your fun.
Go out and buy your presents for every-one.
But don't forget the meaning of the Chanukah light;
A time of victory, of spirit, and of might. (Carey, Annette, Alex each hold a sign)

Carey:
It was a war of the many against the few,
Fought for religious freedom as a Jew.
When Chanukah comes think again young and old;
A time to rededicate your very own soul.

ALL: (1x)
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Eight little candles in our **CHANUKIAH**