READ IT

This week's Bible story is

Ten Bridesmaids

Pentecost

from Matthew 25:1-13.

Jesus shows us that we get ready for God to arrive by lighting a lamp in the darkness.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Bridesmaids
- Oil
- Ready
- Wise
- Foolish

In a village in Jesus' time, a wedding was one of the most exciting festivities for the community. The bridegroom typically traveled to the bride's parents' home to pick her up and take her back to his home. The whole village came out to escort the bride and groom to their new home.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 314-316

Spark Bible page 1086

Family Prayer

Light a candle for this prayer. Each family member can repeat the phrase.

God help us to light a lamp of hope.

Amen

TALK ABOUT IT

Family Conversations

1. In the story, the bridesmaids waited so long for the delayed groom that they fell asleep. Have you ever fallen asleep waiting for something?
2. How did you feel when some of the bridesmaids didn't help the others? What does that tell you about yourself?
3. Share a conversation about your family's readiness. What is your family good and bad at getting ready for? Could you create some new systems to help you be ready for everyday life? For example, kids could practice their instruments before school or they could do homework during the same hour every evening.
4. Set a stopwatch and see how fast your family can make dinner, clean the house, or get in the car.

Eye Spark

With a parent as the leader, read Ten Bridesmaids with a candle to illustrate the parts of the story. Following the words of the story, light and relight the candle for the "ready" parts, blow it out for the "not ready" part.

Ear Spark

Take a field trip to visit the alarm clocks in your home. What sounds do people like to wake up to? Talk about why it can be hard to wake up and what helps us jump out of bed.

Lectionary, Ten Bridesmaids Family Page. Spark: Activate Faith.
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LIVE IT

For families to do together

Get ready for a week of family devotions. Go through a Bible and bookmark seven favorite passages or stories. Then gather as a family before bed each night for a week and take turns reading one of the marked passages.

For younger kids

Remember this story at bath time! Use a plastic cup in the bathtub to retell the story as you fill it with water (like oil in the story!). Give young kids a plastic cup to play with in the bathtub. They can fill it with bath water (oil) as you re-tell the story together.

For older kids

Research emergency preparedness specific to your community. Lead the drive for your family to gather provisions in case of an emergency.

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