

Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

PRESCHOOL LESSON



Theme: Be prepared to meet Jesus.

Scripture: Matthew 25:1-13

Memory Verse: "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Matthew 25:13

Get Ready: Click [here](#) to get your complete supply list for this lesson.

The Children's Sermon:

You'll Need:

- **Bells -- one per child**
- **A flashlight**

Do This:

Before you begin, give each child a bell. Have kids hold the bell as still as possible until you give them further instructions.

SAY: Wow! In the past year we've seen many natural disasters in our world, such as floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis, tornadoes, and fires. One thing that we hear over and over again these days is that it's very important for us to be prepared in case of an emergency.

I remember when I was in school, we used to have disaster drills. Sometimes it was a fire drill. They would ring the school bell three times. (Invite kids to ring their bells three times.) **All of the students lined up and marched outside the school building to a safe place. When they were sure it was safe, they rang the bell two times and the students returned to their classrooms.** (Invite kids to ring their bells two times.) **If there was a tornado drill, they rang the bell four times.** (Invite kids to ring their bells four times.) **The students lined up and marched to a safe room in the center of the building where they would "duck and cover."** (Invite kids to practice ducking and covering.) **The teachers always carried flashlights in case the lights went out.** **When it was safe, they rang the bell two times.** (Invite kids to ring their bells two times.) **Then the students returned to their classrooms.**

It's important to be prepared when something unexpected happens. In our school, it was important for all of the students and teachers to know the warning signal, where to go, and the signal that told them it was safe to return to their classrooms. In a tornado drill, the teachers had to make sure there were batteries in the flashlights and the flashlights were working properly. (Turn on the flashlight and shine it around the room.) **Being prepared can mean the difference between safe or sorry...so be prepared.**

Jesus once told a story to teach us the importance of being prepared. In Jesus' story, ten bridesmaids took their oil lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Jesus said that five of them were foolish because they had their lamps, but they didn't bring any extra oil to put in their lamps. When it was time to go out and meet the bridegroom, they were out of oil. The other five were very wise and well-prepared. They had brought plenty of oil for their lamps. When it was time to go out and meet the bridegroom, they were ready.

In this story, the bridegroom is Jesus and you and I are the bridesmaids. One day we're going to meet Jesus and we must be prepared because we don't know exactly when He's coming. The great news is, what we do to prepare is pretty simple. We must invite Jesus to come into our hearts. When we do that, we are ready.

PRAY: Dear Jesus, we know one day we'll get to meet you face to face. Help us get ready for that wonderful day. In Jesus' name, amen.

Bible Memory Verse

“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.” Matthew 25:13

You'll Need:

- [Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids How-to video](#)
- **Bibles - one per child**

Do This:

Invite kids to open their Bibles to Matthew 25:13. Ask for several volunteers to read the verse aloud.

After the class has familiarized itself with the verse, work together to make up a chant from the Bible memory verse.

Follow these steps:

- Travel around the church.
- Knock on the doors of other classrooms.
- Enter as a group and say in unison: "Be prepared. Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. Matthew 25:13."
- Visit classrooms, as time allows.

ASK:

- **What are some reasons you have or want to tell others to be ready for Jesus?**

SAY: Just as we've heard the important warning to be prepared, we must share this news with others so they will learn of Jesus and be prepared to meet Him, too.

Virtual Lesson Tip

Do this with the entire family and go to neighbors' homes.

Bible Interactive Experience:

You'll Need:

- **Bibles - one per child**

- **Newsprint - one large piece per child**
- **Markers**

Do This:

Invite each child to turn in their Bibles to Matthew 25. Give each child a piece of newsprint and some markers.

SAY: Today's Bible lesson is a parable that Jesus told. A parable is a simple story used to *illustrate a point*. That means it teaches the listener one main important truth. As I reread the story, you'll do some *illustrating yourself*. Illustrate also means to draw; so as you listen, draw what you hear, and look for the important main important truth in the story.

Read aloud Matthew 25:1-13, stopping every few verses to allow time for kids to draw. During these moments, encourage children to summarize what they're drawing. This will help them to connect the story to Jesus' main important truth.

ASK:

- Tell what you think the people in Jesus' parable learned from what happened.
- Look at the story in your drawing. What main important truth do you think Jesus wanted everyone, including us, to know?

SAY: We illustrated Jesus' story, and Jesus illustrated the important point that we must keep watch and be prepared to meet Him.

“Foolish or Wise Game Show” Video Lesson

You'll Need:

- [**“Foolish or Wise Game Show” video lesson**](#)
- **Something to play the video**

Do This:

Show them the video.

ASK: ASK:

- **What makes a decision wise or foolish?**
- **What differences did you notice between the foolish and wise bridesmaids?**
- **Why do you think it's important for you to be wise and prepared to meet Jesus?**

Preparing Sundaes

You'll Need:

- **Bowls**
- **Ice cream**
- **Syrup(s)**
- **Toppings**
 - **M&Ms**
 - **Fruit**

- **Sprinkles**
- **Whipped cream**
- **Spoons**
- **Napkins**

Do This:

Lay out all the supplies for today's snack. The children will prepare their snacks during the activity.

SAY: Today we're learning we need to be ready to meet Jesus. Getting ready means we take action to prepare ourselves. Who wants an ice cream sundae? (Pause for kids' reactions.) Today you'll get to prepare that sundae yourself. If you prepare well, your sundae will be delicious. If you don't listen to instructions and prepare, you could miss out on some of the goodness.

To make the sundaes, have kids follow these steps:

- Invite kids to the preparation table one-at-a-time by name. Remind them to be prepared by listening for their names.
- At the preparation table, lead them through these steps in the following order:
 - Grab bowl
 - Scoop ice cream
 - Cover with syrup
 - Add toppings
 - Get spoon and napkin
 - Return to seat

- Kids who followed instructions get whipped cream on their sundae if they would like to have it. (If a child doesn't like whipped cream, he or she could get an extra scoop of a favorite topping.)

ASK:

- **Tell about something you've prepared for that helped you be ready for something great.**
- **Tell about a time you were not prepared, such as for a test or a soccer game.**

SAY: Following instructions and preparing gave you all some yummy sundaes.

While these sundaes may be tasty, nothing is greater than meeting Jesus. Being prepared to meet Him means we won't miss out on the most amazing friendship we'll ever have.

Virtual Lesson Tip

Do this with the entire family.

Pin the Oil on the Lamp

You'll Need:

- **Newsprint**
- **Tape**
- **Yellow construction paper**

Get Ready: Before class, draw an oil lamp on the newsprint and tape the newsprint at eye level on the wall. Cut the yellow construction paper into circles.

Do This:

SAY: Let's play a game. The goal is to get the oil--a yellow circle--on the top of the lamp to make it look like the lamp is on. Here's the catch: You'll have to close your eyes and spin first.

Follow these steps to play the game:

- Give each child a yellow circle with tape on the back.
- One by one, invite kids to close their eyes. Help them spin three times. Then tell them to walk to the newsprint, with eyes closed, and stick the "oil" to the lamp.
- The child whose oil is the closet is the winner.

SAY: Great job getting the oil in the lamp. Remember that only half of the bridesmaids were prepared and had enough oil to meet the bridegroom. We want to be like the half who were prepared so we're ready for Jesus when He comes.

Virtual Lesson Tip

Do this with the entire family.

Flag Parade

You'll Need:

- Long dowel rods - one per child
- Construction paper
- Markers

- **Tape**

Get Ready: Before class, write BE PREPARED on each piece of construction paper.

Do This: Explain to kids they'll be making some flags they can use to tell others to be prepared for Jesus.

To make the flags, have kids follow these steps:

- Decorate the construction paper, which will be their flags.
- Once decorated, tape the flag to the dowel rod.

Once flags are made, follow these steps to display the flags:

- Have kids march around a designated area and wave their flags. Occasionally say, "halt," and have the kids stop and recite the Bible verse together.
- Repeat, as time allows. You may add some variation, such as having the girls recite the verse one time and the boys recite the Bible verse another time.

ASK:

- **Tell about someone you want to see the message on your flag.**

SAY: **We made our flags to remind us and others to be ready when Jesus comes to meet us. Meeting Jesus will be so wonderful, so we want everyone to know.**

Share Love Prayers

You'll Need:

- **Battery-powered tea light candles -- one per child**

Do This:

Give each child a battery-powered tea light candle. Tell them to leave it off until you call their name. When they hear their name, invite them to turn it on.

SAY: Today we learned that five bridesmaids were ready with plenty of oil while five others were not prepared and missed out on meeting the bridegroom. I am going to pray for each of you by name asking God to reveal Himself to you and give you eyes to see your need for Jesus one day.

Pray for each child by name. When you say their name, they are to turn on their candle. Continue until all the candles are lit.

ASK:

- What kinds of things can you do to be prepared to meet Jesus?

PRAY: Dear God, we thank You that You love us. Please help each of the kids to continue to learn more and more about You. Help them see their need for a Savior who is Your Son, Jesus. Help them be prepared. In Jesus' name, amen.

Time to Praise God

You'll Need:

- Song: "Give Me Oil in My Lamp"
[Words and Music](#)

[**MP3** Accompaniment Track \(right click to save to your computer\)](#)

Do This:

SAY: How amazing it will be when we see Jesus face to face. As we sing today, let's sing with hearts that long to be ready to meet Him.

Lead children in singing "Give Me Oil in My Lamp."

If You Have Extra Time...

Use these activity sheets to fill in any time and keep kids learning.

- [Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids Coloring Sheet](#)

Complete Supply List:

- [Bells](#) -- one per child
- [A flashlight](#)
- Bibles
- Newsprint -- one large piece per child
- [Markers](#)
- [Bowls](#)
- Ice cream
- Syrup(s)
- Toppings
 - M&Ms
 - Fruit
 - Sprinkles
 - Whipped cream
- [Spoons](#)

- [Napkins](#)
- Tape
- [Construction paper](#)
- [Long dowel rods](#)
- [Battery-powered tea light candles](#) -- one per child

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AT-HOME LESSON

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Scripture: Matthew 25:1-13

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