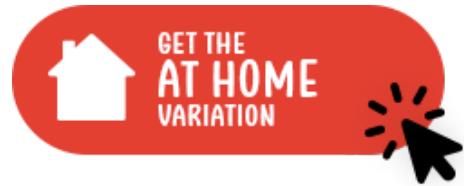


Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

ELEMENTARY 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*. As I reread the story, you'll do some *illustrating* yourself. Illustrate means to draw; so as you listen, draw what you think the point of the story is.

Read aloud Matthew 25:1-13.

Allow time for kids to finish their drawings.

ASK:

- **Tell about your illustration.**
- **How does your illustration show the point of Jesus' story?**

SAY: God's Word has a great lesson to teach us today. We must keep watch and be prepared to meet Jesus.

“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:

- **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.

Prepared Charades

You'll Need:

- **Jar**
- **Paper**
- **Pen**

Get Ready: Before class, write several things kids can do to be prepared to meet Jesus on different slips of paper (i.e. read the Bible, pray, become a Christian, tell others about Jesus). Fold those slips and put them in the jar.

Do This:

Form two teams. Tell kids they're going to act out things people can do to be prepared to meet Jesus.

Play the game as follows:

- Allow a few minutes for teams to privately prepare for the game by brainstorming what might show up on the slips of paper.
- Each team will pick an actor.
- The actor will draw a slip of paper out of the jar and act out (with no sounds) what's on that paper.
- Teams take turns.
- If a team guesses correctly in 3 minutes, they get a point. If the team doesn't guess correctly on their turn, the other team gets one guess to steal the point.

ASK:

- **Explain whether preparing helped your team in the game.**
- **What are some ways you already prepare to meet Jesus or want to start?**

SAY: One day we will all meet Jesus face to face and we want to be ready.

Virtual Lesson Tip

Do this with the entire family.

Be Prepared Door Hangers

You'll Need:

- **Door Hanger** handout - 1 per child
- **Construction paper**
- **Markers**
- **Scissors**
- **Stickers**

Get Ready: Make copies of the "Door Hanger" handout on thick construction paper.

Do This:

SAY: Today we'll make door hangers to remind others to be prepared for Jesus.

To make the door hangers, have kids follow these steps:

- Cut out a door hanger from the worksheet.
- Write "Be prepared." at the top of the door hanger and Matthew 25:13 on the middle/bottom of the door hanger.
- Decorate the door hanger so it grabs the attention of people when they see it on a door.

ASK:

- Tell about someone you want to see the message on your door hanger.

SAY: Take your door hanger home. You can put it on a door in your house, on a neighbor's door, or another door of someone you want to share this important news with this week.

Share Love Prayers

You'll Need:

- Oil lamp, camping lantern, or any lamp
- Lighter, batteries, or power outlet, depending on your lamp

Get Ready: If using an oil lamp, make sure the oil lamp has plenty of oil. Whatever lamp you use, place it in a safe place, away from children.

Do This:

Light or turn on the lamp and turn off the classroom lights.

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. Today we're going to silently pray and ask God to show us if we're ready. You can also take time to pray for others you know who don't know Jesus.

Allow kids time to pray silently. Be prepared for any children who want to talk further about what it means to be prepared to meet Jesus. After kids have had plenty of time to pray, continue.

SAY: Jesus came to seek and save the lost--that's us. None of us is perfect. We all sin. There's nothing we can do to fix our sin problem, but Jesus, God's one and only son, came to earth to rescue us. Romans 10:9 says if we "declare with our mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead, we will be saved." If you have any questions about how to do that, I would be glad to talk with you.

PRAY: Dear God, thank You for Your Word and the warning to be ready to meet You. You know our hearts, and You know if we are ready or not. For those of us who are ready, help us share the good news of Jesus with others. For those not sure if we're ready, give us the courage to seek You and ask questions. 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 Crossword](#)

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](#)
- [Jar](#)
- [Paper](#)
- Pen
- [Construction paper](#)
- Scissors

- [Stickers](#)
- [Oil lamp, camping lantern, or any lamp](#)
- Lighter, batteries, or power outlet, depending on your lamp

[Back to top](#)

Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

AT-HOME LESSON

Theme: Be prepared to meet Jesus.

Scripture: Matthew 25:1-13

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

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:

- **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.

Complete Supply List:

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

[Back to top](#)