

# Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

## Theme

Be prepared to meet Jesus

## Object

Bells -- one per child; flashlight

## Scripture

Matthew 25: 1-13

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

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.

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.

## Group Activities

Sermon Title: "Be Prepared" and "Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids"

Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:1-13

### JAR RELAY:

Divide the children into teams. Have 10 small jars (jam or olive jars, etc) available for each team. See how long it will take each team to run back and forth while taking turns, to fill the 10 jars with water. The teams can use a small paper dixie cup to do the filling of the jars.

### BE PREPARED MARCHING:

Let the class march around the church and to other classrooms and knocking on the doors of each room. When entering as a class group, the class will say in unison, "BE PREPARED. THEREFORE KEEP WATCH, BECAUSE YOU DO NOT KNOW THE DAY OR THE HOUR. MATTHEW 25:13. Then the class will leave that room and go to another classroom as time allows.

### HOPSCOTCH:

Make a hopscotch game and write ways to be prepared on each square. Let children play hopscotch, reading what is in each square that they hop on. The children will take turns until each one trips or steps on or out of a line.

### PREPARE RELAY:

The children will be divided into two teams. The teacher will have ways to prepare for Jesus' coming, written on slips of paper for each team. Each team member will run to the table or basket to get ONE slip of paper and tape it to their clothing. Then the next team player will do the same until all the slips of paper have been taped on each child. Children can sit in a circle and listen to today's Bible story!

### TELLING OTHERS:

Give children supplies to make a "telephone" to tell others to be ready for Jesus' coming -- to invite JESUS into their hearts. The children will each be given a styrofoam cup and put a small hole in the bottom of the cup. Put a string through the hole and tie a knot and then string it to another styrofoam cup and use around a circle as a telephone to TELL OTHERS.

### BE PREPARED DOOR BANNER:

Give the class a large neon colored poster board and markers and stickers to make the door banner. Write today's Bible verse as well as BE PREPARED, etc on the board. Hole punch the top of the poster board and hang on the classroom door to remind children to BE PREPARED for Jesus' coming!

### PREPARE KITS:

Children can be given 2 pieces of construction paper to tape together - leaving the top of one sheet higher than the other, so it can be folded down over the other sheet, to be formed to look like an envelope. The children can be given various sizes of paper cut outs to write ways to be PREPARED for His Coming and

then after coloring each one and discussing the idea, that piece of paper can be slipped into the PREPARE KIT envelope to take home. Write today's Bible verse on the outside of the PREPARE KIT or other words from today's lesson.

### FLAG PARADE:

Let children cut out and decorate a BE PREPARED FLAG and tape a small dowel rod to the edge of the rectangle flag. Children will enjoy a MARCH around a designated area to display their flags. Adding music for the marching will be fun. When the teacher says, HALT! the children will stop and recite the Bible verse together. Then continue to march. The teacher may want to add some variation and have the girls recite the verse one time and the boys recite the Bible verse another time, or all the children wearing red, or blue, or brown hair, etc.

### PREPARE BOOKLETS:

Children can be given small pieces of paper to staple together to form a small booklet. Tie with yarn if staples are not available or if using for smaller children. Each little page can be colored and decorated and tell children to write a word from today's lesson on each page! Children will enjoy sharing the words that they wrote on their booklet after everyone has completed their pages.

### OIL LAMPS:

Give each child a cut out of the different parts of an oil lamp - such as the base, the wick, the globe, the flame, etc. Children can tape or glue the parts of the oil lamp onto a piece of construction paper. Children can write words from today's lesson such as SOME DAY WE WILL GO TO MEET JESUS -- BE PREPARED, or today's Bible verse, etc.

### SING A SONG:

GIVE ME OIL IN MY LAMP

### SNACK TIME:

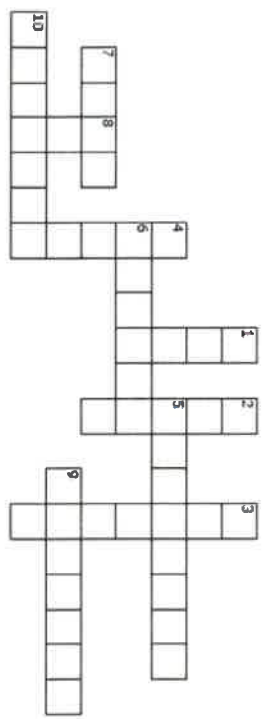
Give children a snack that they have to PREPARE for - such as getting a dish, napkin, silverware, wet wipes, etc. This treat could be cutting up fruit, or ice cream sundaes, or frosting cookies or cupcakes.

Song: "Give Me Oil in My Lamp" Traditional

[Words and Music \(pdf\)](#)

[MP3 Accompaniment Track](#)

# Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS**
- 5. 12 o'clock at night
  - 6. Not awake
  - 7. A swinging or sliding cover over the place where someone usually enters a room
  - 9. Ceremony in which a man and a woman are married.
  - 10. Someone who does not use good judgment is \_\_\_\_\_.
- DOWN**
- 1. Someone who has good judgment and makes good decisions is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2. Devices used to produce light
  - 3. A feast or meal held in recognition of some person or occasion
  - 4. To observe or look at something
  - 8. A liquid that is often used to make fuel.

MIDNIGHT	LAMPS	WATCH	OIL	FOOLISH
ASLEEP	DOOR	BANQUET	WISE	WEDDING



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# Children's Worship Bulletin

## Parable of the Bridesmaids

Matthew 25:1-13

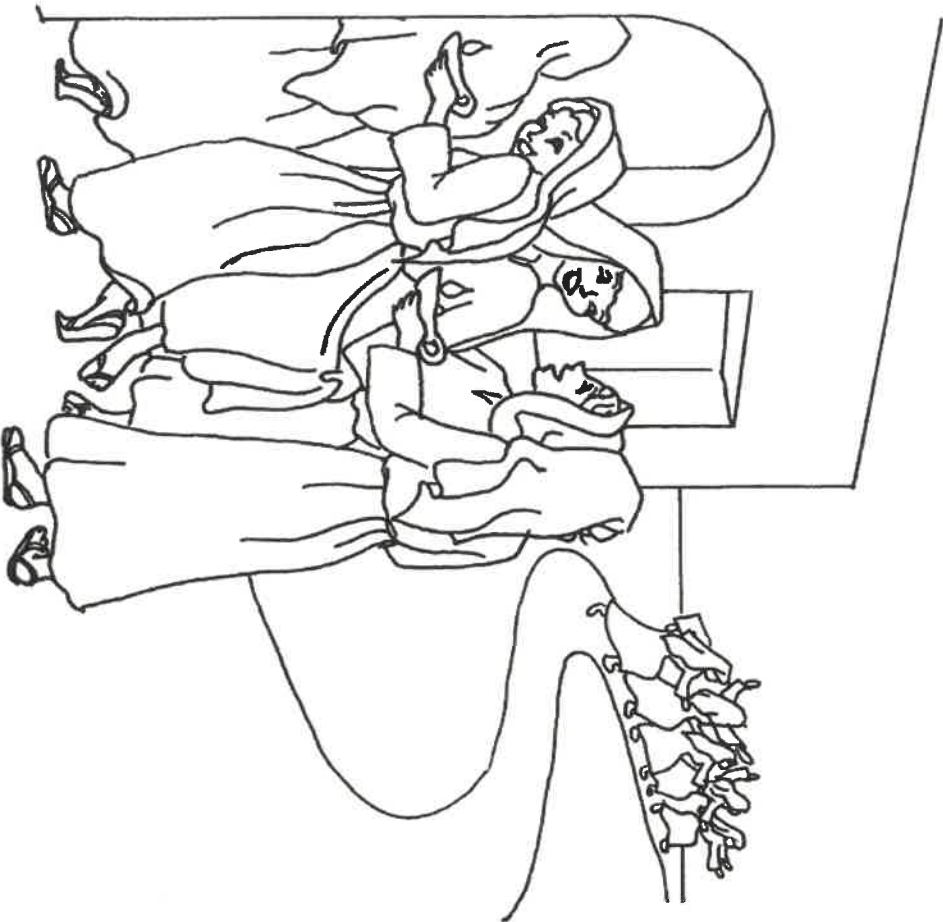
## Word Search Puzzle

T Z F E S G H O G Q N O G T A  
 O B M P K S M I D N I G H T A  
 G O M Q I N A N H E A V E N S  
 C A Q L R T I I E D I J K B L  
 L P O B R I D E G R O O M A E  
 M O J K E F D K L X M O H N E  
 F E O G S W O I H A Z S R Q P  
 V W E X G B I N O D A T H U X  
 I T B T P C L G R W R T E E T  
 R S R C U B O D A A M O Z T E  
 G S D I K T Y O N T W D W K X  
 I T T S M W G M G C R F O S W  
 N V I H O M Z I Z H P W D O Y  
 S N N T P X E W E D D I N G E  
 U T C Z G X C D S W I S E C

FOOLISH	MEET	DROWSY	VIRGINS	BANQUET
MIDNIGHT	WEDDING	TRIMMED	RANG	KINGDOM
BRIDEGROOM	LAMPS	WISE	WATCH	COME
DOOR	ASLEEP	HEAVEN	OIL	WOKE

Your Church Name Here  
Anytown, USA

# Coloring Page



The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids  
Matthew 25:1-13

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# Multiple Choice Quiz

1. Ceremony in which a man and a woman are married.  
A. wise B. wedding C. oil D. lamps
2. Where God lives  
A. watch B. come C. heaven D. lamps
3. Devices used to produce light  
A. lamps B. asleep C. banquet D. foolish
4. Not awake  
A. asleep B. heaven C. oil D. lamps
5. Made a sound like a bell  
A. rang B. asleep C. lamps D. oil
6. A feast or meal held in recognition of some person or occasion  
A. come B. midnight C. wedding D. banquet
7. To arrive at a particular place; the opposite of go  
A. door B. come C. midnight D. heaven
8. To observe or look at something  
A. wise B. midnight C. watch D. wedding
9. Someone who has good judgment and makes good decisions is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. watch B. wise C. rang D. door
10. Someone who does not use good judgment is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. asleep B. oil C. midnight D. foolish

