

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 228: THE PARABLE OF THE TEN MAIDENS
MATTHEW 25:1-13

"At that time God's kingdom will be like ten girls who went to wait for the bridegroom. They took their lamps with them. Five of the girls were foolish, and five were wise. The foolish girls took their lamps with them, but they did not take extra oil for the lamps. The wise girls took their lamps and more oil in jars. When the bridegroom was very late, the girls could not keep their eyes open, and they all fell asleep. "At midnight someone announced, 'The bridegroom is coming! Come and meet him!' "Then all the girls woke up. They made their lamps ready. But the foolish girls said to the wise girls, 'Give us some of your oil. The oil in our lamps is all gone.' "The wise girls answered, 'No! The oil we have might not be enough for all of us. But go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' "So the foolish girls went to buy oil. While they were gone, the bridegroom came. The girls who were ready went in with the bridegroom to the wedding feast. Then the door was closed and locked. "Later, the other girls came. They said, 'Sir, sir! Open the door to let us in.' "But the bridegroom answered, 'Certainly not! I don't even know you.' "So always be ready. You don't know the day or the time when the Son of Man will come.

228. THE PARABLE OF THE TEN MAIDENS

MATTHEW 25:1-13



"Jesus tells a parable about ten maidens."
Matthew 25:1-13

228. THE PARABLE OF THE TEN MAIDENS

MATTHEW 25:1-13

MEMORY VERSE:

"So watch, for you don't know the day or the time that the Son of Man is coming." **MATTHEW 25:13**

Review Questions

True or False

1. The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.
2. Five virgins were sleepy.
3. Five virgins were wise.
4. Five virgins were foolish.
5. The foolish virgins took their lamps and took a lot of oil with them.

Questions

1. What did the wise virgins take with them?
2. What happened to the foolish virgins' lamps when someone started yelling out, "Here comes the bridegroom!" ?
3. What did they ask the wise virgins to do?
4. What did the wise virgins tell them?
5. What happened when the foolish virgins went out to buy more oil at from the people who sold oil? Where did the wise virgins go?
6. What did Jesus tell the foolish virgins when they finally showed up to the door that was shut and asked to come inside?

Lesson 228 Discussion

Jesus told us many times that He would go to heaven to be with the Father and then one day He would come back again. He also told us that His return would be swift and sudden. He warned us to remain watchful and prepared for His return.

On the Mount of Olives, Jesus taught the disciples about the events that would take place before the end of the age. In our lesson today, Jesus tells a parable using a wedding as example, so that we could understand the important truth of living a life in expectation of His return. He pointed out that we should be less concerned with knowing the exact date and more concerned with being prepared to meet Him (Matthew 24:3). [We should watch for Jesus' return.](#)

In Jewish culture, a couple was engaged for a long time before the actual marriage, and the engagement promise was just as binding as the marriage vows. A wedding in that day had two parts. First the bridegroom and his friends would go from house to house on the way to claim the bride from her parents. Sometimes this took place late at night, as they led their procession to the house of the bride. There she waited for him, in great expectation with her bridesmaids. As the bridegroom approached, the bridesmaids went out with their lamps in hand to light the way into the house for the ceremony. Then the bride and groom, along with a great parade, returned to the groom's house where a feast took place, often lasting a full week.

Jesus was painting a picture in the minds of His listeners of how it would be when He returned. One day Jesus will return to take His people to heaven and we must be ready. The ten maidens went to meet the bridegroom, who represents Jesus. He is coming again, but no one knows which day or hour (Matthew 24:42).

You can let the children act out the scene if there are enough of them, or divide the class equally, even if there are only 4 children to act out half of them being foolish, and half being wise.

LESSON 228

Optional Craft

BE READY!

Suitcase

Have your students take two pieces of construction paper and cut them in the shape of a suitcase. Let your students decorate their suitcases to resemble well-traveled bags with Jesus stickers and slogans like “One Way” and “Jesus Lives.”

Staple them together with some crumpled paper between to make them look packed.

When your class has completed the activity ask them if they are ready and prepared to go on their trip with Jesus.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of salvation and commitment to live lives that are ready for His return. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.

SUITCASE SHAPE TEMPLATE
(cut 2 per child out of construction paper)

