

Ready or Not . . .

Matthew 25:1-13; *Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 405-421

Have you ever had to wait a long time for something you really wanted to happen? Such as your birthday or summer vacation? Do you count the days until the excitement begins? Do you plan and dream of what it's going to be like?

In our Bible story ten young women are waiting for a wedding to begin. They have to wait a long time.

Iwish he'd hurry up and come!" yawned a young woman. "We've been waiting here for hours."

"I'm sure it won't be much longer," encouraged another girl. "Maybe we should just sit down and rest a while."

Ten young women sat down and tried to get comfortable. They knew that the wedding

party was supposed to pass this way. And they wanted to join the group and walk with the other guests to the wedding. But none of them had expected that it would be such a long wait.

Earlier in the evening five of the girls had thought it would be good to take along some extra oil. They really didn't know when the bridegroom would come.

But the other five had thought, *It won't be that long before the bridegroom comes*. So they didn't put any extra oil in the containers everyone carried at night. Their lamps were full when they left home. They were sure that would be enough.

So five of the women took extra oil. But five did not.

It was getting late. And there was no sign of the bridegroom. The young women talked and laughed together for a long time. But one by one they nodded, yawned, and fell asleep.

After a time, a call woke them up. "Make way for the wedding party! Come and join us. Make way for the wedding party! The bridegroom comes!"

Quickly the women reached for their lamps and stood up.

"Hurry! We must add oil to our lamps or we will miss the wedding," cried one.

The five girls who had extra oil quickly used it all to fill their lamps. But the five who had no extra oil just as quickly realized that they had no extra oil to keep their lamps from



The Message

People in God's family can always be ready for Jesus to come.

Memory Verse

“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour”

(Matthew 25:13, NIV).

going out.

“Give us some of your extra oil!” they begged. “We don’t want to miss the wedding!”

But the five prepared young women couldn’t help them. “We wish we could give you some, but we have used all our oil to refill our lamps. We have none left. Go quickly; maybe you can buy oil somewhere!”

Five young women in need of oil hurried off into the night. Their friends joined the wedding party, and went to the wedding feast.

It wasn’t easy to find anyone who was willing to sell oil in the middle of the night. By the time oil was purchased and they arrived at the wedding, the door was closed and locked.

“Let us in! Please, let us in!” they begged, knocking loudly. The bridegroom himself came to the door. “I’m sorry, but I don’t know you,” he said. “My friends all came in with me.” He turned away and closed the door. Five disappointed women stood outside.

Like the young women waiting for the bridegroom, we cannot rely on the choices of another person. Each one has to

choose to say “Yes!” to Jesus and stay ready for His coming. We stay ready by making wise choices every day. By studying the Bible and praying. By choosing every day to be best friends with Him. And when Jesus comes, we will be ready.





S A B B A T H

SHARE With your family, find a quiet place near a path outdoors and read and discuss your Bible lesson. What does the lamp represent? The oil?

DO Show the "Passport to Heaven" you made in Sabbath School. Make a passenger list for the trip to heaven. How can you help each other to be ready? Pray that you all will be ready.

DO Teach your memory verse to your family. Tell them what it means to you.

M O N D A Y

THINK With your family, review the Bible lesson. What does the oil represent? How do you know when this "oil" is a part of your life? Will others know? Why?

SING Sing "Give Me Oil in My Lamp" before prayer. Ask God to fill your life with His Spirit.

T U E S D A Y

READ During family worship today, find and read Galatians 3:13; Titus 2:14; 1 Corinthians 6:20; Ephesians 1:5. What is the message for your family? Thank God for sacrificing His Son for us.

DO If possible, look at your parents' wedding pictures. Do you see bridesmaids? If so, what are they holding in their hands?

DO Count out ten of something (beans, buttons, coins, etc.) to represent the ten bridesmaids. Divide them in half. How many in each group?

S U N D A Y

SHARE With your family, read and discuss Matthew 25:1-13. Who knows when Jesus is coming back? Do the angels? Does Jesus? Does God? Say your memory verse together. Ask what it means to your family.

DO Look in books to discover more about lights used in Bible times. Draw a picture of one. Thank God for His "light," the Bible.

Lamps in Jesus' time burned olive oil. The bridesmaids' oil helps us understand the Holy Spirit.



W E D N E S D A Y

READ Read the lesson with your family again. Unscramble and write these words from the story.

orbdeimrog _____ sewi _____
diwdnge _____ ilo _____

DO Review your memory verse.

DO Think about ways you can remain ready for Jesus to come. Which did you do in worship today?

SING Sing "Give Me Oil in My Lamp." Thank Jesus for His promise to come again. Tell Him that you want to be His friend.

THURSDAY

SHARE With your family, talk about things you are responsible for at home. What happens when you forget? When you remember?

DO Say your memory verse without help.

DO Set a timer for a minute or less. Toss a ball or wadded paper back and forth. Whoever is holding the ball when the timer goes off is out. Repeat until one person is left. That person wins. We want to stay ready for Jesus to come because we don't know when that will be (just as you didn't know when the timer would go off!). Ask Jesus to help you always to be ready for His coming.

FRIDAY

DO Plan a Jewish wedding for sundown worship. Borrow some fancy clothes from your parents and act out the lesson story. At the end, ask Jesus to help you to be ready when He comes.

THINK With adult help, light a candle. Turn off the lights. Talk about how that one candle can light up the room. How can you be a light in the darkness around you?

SING Sing "This Little Light of Mine" together before prayer.

Ready Or Not... PUZZLE

Directions: Draw flames in the lamps of the bridesmaids who had enough oil. Then put an X on the number of lamps that ran out of oil because their owners did not plan ahead.

