

Parable - The Ten Virgins

This lesson teaches the importance of spiritual activity and self-examination.

TOPICS

Parables, Preparedness, Readiness, Return of Jesus, Wisdom

AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 minutes)

I Will Follow God (Activity) [page 2](#)

MEMORY WORK (12 minutes)

"And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming." 1 John 2:28 NIV

Have the children follow along as you read the verse, then ask for volunteers to then take turns reading the verse from their Bibles. Have the kids close their Bibles and recite the verse from memory.

SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION (15 minutes)

Introduction:

One day Jesus will be coming back, but should make every effort to grow in our knowledge of God and then live our lives according to the knowledge God gives us. We must not grow tired of doing what God has called us to do.

Read Matthew 25:1-13

Discussion Questions:

1. How many of the virgins(girls) were wise? How many were foolish? (*Five, Five.*)
2. In our story, how where five of the girls or bridesmaids foolish? (*They took oil lamps, but no oil.*)
3. Do you know what the oil represents spiritually? (*Being ready for Jesus to return, Jesus is the oil and we are the lamps. Jesus is the light in us.*)
4. What are some ways that we can prepare for Jesus' return? (*We repent of our sin. We have opened the door to our lives and asked Him to be our Savior and Lord. We try to follow and obey Jesus' teachings every day.*)
5. What are some warning signs that we may be becoming spiritually lazy? (*We don't read our Bibles or pray, skip church, live selfishly, being cruel to others.*)
6. What happens when we become lazy spiritually? (*We become self-centered and our relationship with God is weakened.*)
7. What are some ways we can ensure that our spiritual lamps are full? (*Spend time each day reading the Bible, Praying, and Obeying God.*)
8. Since we don't know when Jesus is returning how should we live? (*We should never become tired of following Jesus, we should live wisely and obey God.*)

CLASS EXERCISE (15 minutes)

Special Guest (Activity) [page 3](#)

ALTERNATE CLASS EXERCISE (10 minutes)

Are You Ready? (Activity) [page 4](#)

APPLICATION (2 minutes)

God forgives us when we honestly and whole heartily tell Him that we are sorry. That is called repentance. We must do our part to follow and obey God. We need to believe God's promises; that's called faith. We must not become lazy, but should make every effort to grow in our knowledge of God and then live our lives according to the knowledge God gives us. That's called wisdom.

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I WILL FOLLOW GOD

In this activity, children will list ways in which they will follow God and then discuss why it is important to remain spiritually active.

TOPICS:

Following God, Serving

MATERIALS:

Activity page for each child [PDF] [page 5](#)
Pencils or markers

DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes

PREPARATION

Before class, print or make copies of the activity page for each child.

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Have children take several minutes to list ways in which they plan to serve God at home, school, and church. Once the kids have completed their lists ask volunteers to share some of the ways in which they plan to follow God.

Ask the children to share their ideas on why it is important to remain spiritual active.



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SPECIAL GUEST

Anticipation of meeting Jesus should inspire us to live our lives for Him.

TOPICS:

Readiness, Return of Jesus

MATERIALS:

A special guest



DURATION:

Approximately 15 minutes

PREPARATION

If possible, arrange to have a local hero visit the class during this activity. (Police officer, firefighter, etc) If the guest shows up in uniform it is has more impact on the lesson. Tell the local hero that today's lesson discusses the return of Jesus and what a happy and surprising event this will be.

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

First, Ask the children the names of some of their favorite heroes. These can be Bible characters, sport figures, firefighters, police officer, political leaders or others. Make a list of these heroes on the board. After the list is compiled, tell the children that you have a special guest for them to meet. Open the door, ask the guest in and introduce them. Have the guest talk with the children for several minutes and then take a few minutes for a question and answer period. The special guest will then say goodbye and make their exit.

If a special guest could not visit, ask the children to image that one of their favorite heroes is just outside the door, waiting to enter the room to talk with them.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did you feel when our guest came into the room?
2. Was the visit exciting?
3. Where you expecting to see our special visitor today?

The Bible tells us that one day Jesus will return! Can you image what an exciting time that will be! Just imagine if Jesus had just come into the room! The Bible tells us that no one knows the day or the time that Jesus will return. We should do all that we can to lead the type of lives that Jesus would want us to live. Let's make a list of ways we can follow Jesus! Ask the children for suggestions and then list them on the board. Here are a few to help you get started: Pray, Read the Bible, Show Kindness, Obey, and Share.

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ARE YOU READY?

In life we prepare for many things. The most important thing we can prepare for is to meet Jesus!

TOPICS:

Preparedness, Readiness, Return of Jesus

MATERIALS:

Whiteboard or Chalkboard

DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes



WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Go around the classroom and ask the children what they did to prepare for church this morning? Answers may include took a bath, combed my hair, ate breakfast, got my Bible, etc.

Next, ask the children what they do to prepare for a test at school. Answers include study, review the material with parents, pray, and so on.

Ask the kids what they might do to prepare for a vacation. Answers may include get directions, pack my clothes, get a camera, pack the car, buy an airplane ticket, etc.

Tell the children that you know what is the most important thing of all to prepare for. Ask them if they would like to guess what it might be. Let them take several guesses. Then say the following:

"The most important thing we can prepare for is for the day we will meet Jesus! One day every one of us will meet Jesus, which will be a very exciting and important time. Let's make a list of things we can do now, that will help us prepare for the time when we will be able to see Jesus."

Have the children take turns naming different ways they can prepare to meet Jesus and list them on the board. Here are a few examples to help you get started:

1. Ask God for forgiveness when we do bad things (*Repentance*)
2. Talk to God on a daily basis (*Prayer*)
3. Sing and worship God for His goodness to us. (*Praising God*)
4. Read our Bibles to learn about God and to understand how we should live. (*Knowledge*)
5. Obey God (*Wisdom*)
6. Believe God's promises (*Faith*)
7. Tell our family and friends about Jesus. (*Witnessing*)

(Option for older children) Give a sheet of paper and pencil to each child, and have them copy the list from the board.

