

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 5 • Unit 5 • Week 3

THE PARABLE OF THE 10 VIRGINS

OBJECTIVE:

To explain the importance of being prepared until Jesus Christ returns through the parable of the 10 virgins.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Discuss with the students different types of lamps (examples: kerosene lamps, electric lamps, lanterns, flashlights). Then explain that the lamps that the 10 maidens had might have been like small containers filled with olive oil, with an opening for the wick.

BIBLE LESSON:

Say: Jesus Christ's ministry as a human being probably lasted three and a half years. Much of the first part of His ministry took place around the Sea of Galilee. (Remember in our last lesson Jesus walked on the Sea of Galilee?) Most of the latter part of Christ's ministry took place almost 100 miles south in the land of Judah and much of His teaching there was in and around the city of Jerusalem.

One of the ways that Jesus taught His disciples was by telling parables. Sometimes His parables would contain a cast of characters who interacted with everyday things that the people of Christ's day would be very familiar with. One parable that Jesus told during the last week of His life was the parable of the 10 virgins.

Do: Read the first 13 verses of Matthew 25.

Ask: Who are the characters involved in this particular parable?

Say: That's right, they are the 10 virgins (five wise and five foolish) and the bridegroom.

Ask: What are the objects that we find in this parable?

Say: Lamps and oil (in this case, olive oil). The 10 virgins represent the bride of Jesus Christ. The bride that is going to marry Christ at His return is the Church of God. [Read the students Revelation 19:7 and Ephesians 5:25.]

Ask: At the beginning of the parable why did the 10 virgins take their lamps?

Say: The 10 virgins are unmarried young women, who would need light from their lamps in order to go out and meet the bridegroom. For those of you who live in the city, when you go out at night you can see where you are going because there are streetlights on almost every corner. In Christ's day there were no streetlights. So in order for the maidens to make their way to the bridegroom's house they had to have lamps.

Ask: How did the lamps that were used in Christ's day differ from the lamps we use today?

Say: Today when you want to have light from a lamp in your home, all you have to do is make sure it is plugged into the outlet and the switch is turned on. In Christ's day electricity had not been discovered yet. So the only lamps that people had were ones that had fire burning in them. In order to keep this fire burning you had to have oil.

Ask: Why were the five virgins wise to take the oil with them?

Say: By taking extra oil with them the five wise virgins were planning ahead. In the Middle East it was a custom for the maidens of the wedding party to go out into the city and await the arrival of the bridegroom. They were not told when the bridegroom would come to meet his bride and sometimes they were required to wait quite a while. So by taking extra oil the wise virgins planned ahead in case the bridegroom did not come as soon as they thought that he would.

Ask: What is it that Jesus said we are to learn from this parable according to Matthew 25:13?

Say: Jesus told us that we need to stay watchful and be prepared for His coming.

Say: Of course, Jesus didn't mean that we could never go to sleep at night; but He meant that we need to always be on the alert for His coming.

Say: Jesus is showing us that we need to be prepared at anytime for His return.

Ask: What are some of the ways we can prepare for Christ's return? What is the lamp we need to have? [Read Psalm 119:105.]

Say: God's Word is a lamp to light our way through a dark, dark world. We need to study God's Word—the Bible—regularly so that we know what God wants us to do and then we need to try very hard to do it.

Praying to God, learning what God wants us to do in the Bible and then trying hard to do it are good things that we can do to make sure that we have plenty of oil in our lamps and that they will be shining brightly when Christ returns.

Ask: What does Luke 21:34 tell us can keep us from being alert for Christ's return?

Explain that the word "surfeiting" (in KJV—in other versions it's translated carousing, dissipation) means to overindulge in something. Eating too much, spending too much time watching TV, and spending too much time playing video games are examples. All of these things may be okay in moderation, but we can't become obsessed with doing something so much that it takes over our lives and keeps us from remembering that Christ is going to return and we have to be getting ready to help Him teach this world how to be happy.

Say: So remember: Don't be like the five foolish virgins and ignore spending time with God. Pray and study the Bible and try to please God no matter what. With His help your lamps will be shining brightly when Christ returns, and you will be invited into the Kingdom!

LESSON APPLICATION:

Say: When studying a verse in the Bible, it is important to see what the context is. Just what is the context? It is the entire text surrounding the verse. If we want to understand what a verse in the Bible means, we must study all the verses surrounding it, this is called looking at a passage in its context. The following example illustrates the importance of getting the context.

Say: Turn to Genesis 3:4, notice it says you (Adam and Eve and thus mankind) will not surely die. Does this mean that mankind is immortal and cannot die? One could think so until they checked the context. We do this by reading the first four verses of Genesis 3 instead of just reading verse 4 by itself. When we do this we find that Satan is the one who says that mankind will not die. According to Jesus (in John 8:44) Satan is a liar, so we cannot believe him. If we expand our reading to Genesis 2, we find what God said in Genesis 2:17. So checking the context makes a big difference.

Do: Have children do the "Who Said It?" matching activity on the following page.

MUSIC:

Teacher's choice from the United Church of God hymnal.

MEMORY VERSE:

Luke 21:36 " Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

WHO SAID IT?

Match the following statements from the Bible to the person who said it.

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1. I will exalt my throne above the stars of God. | A. Jesus |
| 2. I was in the Spirit on Lord's day. | B. Lucifer |
| 3. I am the Bread of Life. | C. Joseph |
| 4. You meant it for evil but God meant it for good. | D. John |

This activity is easier if the students have a concordance and are shown how to use it.

family activity

THE POINT:

To explain the importance of being prepared until Jesus Christ returns through the parable of the 10 virgins.

ASK ME...

Who do the 10 virgins represent?

The five wise virgins were prepared. What should we be prepared for?

How can we be prepared for Christ's return?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Discuss Luke 21:34. Think of things in your family life that can keep family members from remembering that Christ is going to return. For example: Is the TV always on? Are video games used too often?

Set aside a time once a week (or once a day!) to read the Bible together as a family. Make sure you leave time to talk about what you read. Make it a special occasion with a nice snack.

MEMORY VERSE:

Luke 21:36 " Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."