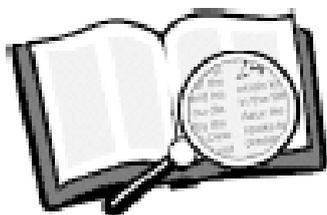


The Ten Maidens

Jesus told a story about the Kingdom of God. He said that the Kingdom of God can be compared to ten maidens, who went to a wedding. They took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish. They did not take extra oil for their lamps, and their lamps went out before the bridegroom came. So they went to buy oil. The other five were wise enough to bring extra oil. Their lamps did not go out. When the bridegroom came, the five wise maidens went with him to the wedding. But the other five were late, and the bridegroom did not allow them to enter the wedding party.



"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."

Matthew 25:13

What happened to the five foolish maidens?



Connect all the smiling faces starting from the left hand corner.



Compare the two images below and find as many differences as you can!



Lesson 18

The Ten Maidens

Bible Text: Matthew 25:1-13

Key Verse: Matthew 25:13

Purpose: The children will understand why it is so important to “stay awake” and be ready for Jesus’ second coming.

Please note!

Plan suitable activities for your group of children. The following activities can be adapted depending on the group’s size, age, ability, the amount of time available, etc.

I. Lesson

Before working on the coloring page, tell the story of the ten maidens, from Matthew 25:1-13. Use these different methods:

For younger children: tell the story and have the children act out the story.

For older children do the following:

1. Ask these questions: Who knows what Jesus promised before he was taken up to heaven? What do we have to do to be prepared for the day when this promise will be fulfilled? Have the children write their answers on a piece of paper (have them put their names on their papers too). Collect the answers and call the children to the front of the group. Put the children who answered correctly on your right and the others on your left. Then tell the children the correct answer. Send them back to their places and read the story of the ten maidens. Then say: “The ones who sat on my right answered correctly. This means that you know God’s word very well. You are like the wise maidens who had their lamps full of oil. Those on my left should read the Bible more so that you will not be like the foolish maidens whose lamps went out.

Through this activity the children will understand how important it is to read the Bible. Reading the Bible can help us prepare for Jesus’ second coming.

2. Explain the story:

- The wise maidens – the people who say that they expect Jesus’ second coming and are prepared.
- The lamp full of oil – good deeds and hearts ready for Jesus’ return.
- The foolish maidens – the people who say they expect Jesus’ second coming, but do not prepare themselves.
- The lamps which went out – deeds which are not God’s will.
- The maidens’ sleep – the human weakness, inattentiveness.
- The bridegroom – the Lord Jesus.
- The wedding – Jesus’ second coming.
- Midnight – many people will be surprised by Jesus’ coming.

II. Activities

1. The Key Verse

a. Read the key verse out loud.

"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour." Matthew 25:13

b. Explain the verse.

The Bible says that no one knows either the day or the hour when Jesus will return. The only one who knows this is God, the Father. Our duty is not to find out when he will come back, but to be prepared (to have our lamp burning). So we have to stay awake and keep watch for Jesus' second coming.

c. Help the children memorize the verse.

2. Review questions for the children

- Who told this story?
- Where did the maidens go?
- How many of the maidens were wise and how many were foolish?
- What were the lamps of the wise maidens like?
- What were the lamps of the foolish maidens like?
- When did the bridegroom come?
- Who went with the groom to the wedding and who stayed outside?
- What do we have to do to not be like the foolish maidens?

III. Conclusion

Lord Jesus will come again unexpectedly. If he would come now, how would he find you? Prepared for the wedding, like the wise maidens, or with your lamp not lit, like the foolish maidens? I hope you will be like the wise maidens, prepared and ready for the time when Jesus comes again.