

VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH –YOUTH WORK

Sunday morning teaching plan



Date: 30 March 25

TITLE:	The parable of the 10 Bridesmaids Matt 25:1-13
THEME:	Being prepared for Jesus' return
AIM:	To understand that faith needs to be maintained every day

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

This parable is part of a wider section about the Kingdom of God and Christ's return. Jesus uses the story of ten bridesmaids waiting for the bridegroom to illustrate the importance of being spiritually prepared for His return. The five wise bridesmaids symbolize those who are faithful and prepared, while the five foolish bridesmaids represent those who are unprepared and lacking in faith. The lamps represent our faith, and the oil represents the Holy Spirit's presence and work within us. The delay of the bridegroom signifies the uncertainty of Christ's return, emphasizing the need for constant readiness.

WARM UP

Summer Holiday. Using PPT list of words, each person has to decide which 7 items they would take on a holiday to a deserted Caribbean island. Only 7 will fit in your backpack! The game is about being prepared and choosing what is important. They will need to explain why they chose the items

MAIN TEACHING

Activity one: Read Matthew 25:1-13

Discuss the questions in pairs or 3s and feedback ideas

1. What is this parable about?
2. Why do you think the foolish bridesmaids didn't bring enough oil with them?
3. Do you think the wise bridesmaids should have shared?

Key teaching point

As the context section says, this is about being prepared for Christ's return and how some people are not prepared or ready for Christ to come back. The faithful believers are all set, but others have not thought about it enough or organised themselves to be ready, and find themselves missing out.

The foolish bridesmaids did not prepare properly. They are a picture of non believers or people who think they are ready but in fact are not. (Get them to reflect on what this means). The Oil is the Holy Spirit, without that we will miss the return of Jesus!

When the wise bridesmaids refuse to share it seems mean, but the message is that we ALL have to take personal responsibility for our relationship with Jesus. Being in a Christian family or going to church is NOT enough.

Activity 2. Nurturing faith

1. How can we ensure that we stay spiritually ready for Christ's return in our own lives?
2. What are some common distractions that may hinder our spiritual preparedness?
3. How can we support and encourage one another to remain faithful and prepared?

Key teaching point

Being a Christian **IS** a matter of faith, but if we fail to look after our faith our "light" will dim and even go out. We must make sure we nurture our faith and strengthen it through worship, study, living out Jesus' teachings . It can be easy to "fall asleep" like the bridesmaids or be distracted by the world. Routine, discipline and a desire to grow in faith will help prevent our faith from failing.

Activity 3 Do we need to "worry" about the return of Jesus?

Ask the group what they know about the return of Jesus. Create a discussion as best you can

Key teaching point

It does not matter if you don't know too much about it. That's part of the lesson. Being prepared is NOT having all the answers (although some people find it very interesting). What is important is

1. Believing it WILL happen
2. Obedience to Jesus teachings in the best way you can.
3. Trusting in Jesus even when the world seems to be in a mess.

Look up and share:

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1. How will it happen?
2. How are believers different to non believers?
3. How should believers act?
4. What can they rely on?

TAKEAWAY

Bookmark to take away

Extra Info