

LESSON 24

THE TEN BRIDESMAIDS

Matthew 25:1-13

This is the story that Jesus told to the people about a wedding. The bride in this wedding had ten bridesmaids, who had to wait for the bridegroom to come.

Usually it was dark when the bridegroom arrived so each bridesmaid carried a lamp. These lamps needed oil to keep them burning brightly. Five of the bridesmaids had brought plenty of oil. They were wise bridesmaids. The other five bridesmaids were foolish, as they did not have much oil for their lamps.

The bridegroom took a long time to come, so the ten bridesmaids slept. When they woke up at midnight to meet the bridegroom, the five foolish ones were running out of oil. They asked the wise bridesmaids to give them some of their oil, but they would not, in case they, too, ran out of oil. So the five foolish bridesmaids had to go and buy some more oil.

While the bridesmaids were away buying oil, the bridegroom came and the five bridesmaids whose lamps were burning brightly went to the wedding feast with him.

The five foolish bridesmaids missed out on the feast because they did not have their lamps ready.

ACTIVITY

Cut out pieces of yellow cellophane, and place above the lamps of the five wise bridesmaids. Colour all the lamps. Trace over the numerals. Draw the five wise bridesmaids inside the door. Colour and cut out the door from the back page of this book, and paste on the left hand side. "Open" the door to reveal the five wise bridesmaids. Draw the five foolish bridesmaids left outside.

FURTHER SUGGESTIONS

Use playdough/peg/pipe cleaner figures to act out the story.

Compare a wedding today with one in Jesus' days.

If possible, find an old oil lamp and show children how it works.

Draw or paint a picture of the ten bridesmaids asleep. Make sure they have their lamps next to them, and draw five of them with an extra bottle of oil.

Only five bridesmaids had their lamps ready.

