

Gospel for November 8, 2020 – lesson for 4th-6th grade

Read the below Gospel slowly. Read it again then think about the answers to the first couple questions. Read it again, slowly, and think about the answers to the next couple questions. Continue to re-read the Gospel and think about possible answers. Do you think you get a deeper understanding by re-reading the story multiple times? Do you find yourself focusing on different parts?

Matthew 25:1-13 - The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

25 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶ But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹ But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹ Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹² But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' ¹³ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Read aloud verses 1-5. Discuss:

- ◆ When have you waited so long for something to happen that you fell asleep?
- ◆ As a small child, did you ever try to stay up on Christmas Eve until Santa Claus arrived? What happened?
- ◆ What does it feel like to have to wait for something for a long time?

Read aloud verses 6-12. Discuss:

- ◆ What happened to the foolish young women? What happened to the wise young women?
- ◆ Why do you think the door of the wedding feast was closed?
- ◆ Why do you suppose the bridegroom said that he didn't know the foolish girls?

Read aloud Matthew 25:13. Jesus' story has a special meaning. Jesus tells this story to help people be ready when he comes.

- ◆ How could the foolish young women have been better prepared for the bridegroom?
- ◆ How can we be ready for Jesus?
- ◆ How can we tell if we're ready for Jesus? How can we tell if we're not ready for Jesus?
- ◆ What do you think will happen when Jesus, like the bridegroom, returns for us?

Activity: Are you ready? Help make sure your family/household is ready for an emergency. What type of things should you have? Find out if you have the following items: first-aid kit, candles and matches, flashlight with batteries, fire extinguisher, easy-to-find list of emergency telephone numbers...anything else you think is important to have?

What are ways you can stay ready for Jesus? Are there things you should have? Or is it more like a way you should behave? How would Jesus recognize you are ready?