LESSON 11

The Ten Young Women



Aim: **To teach the children that we need to live our whole lives in readiness for Jesus' coming.**

Scripture Reading: **Matthew 25:1–13**

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

Presenting the Lesson

Starting Point

Talk about weddings. Who of you have had a wedding in the family recently? **The important point you need to highlight is that everyone has to be ready when the bridegroom comes for the bride.**

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Jesus attended weddings when he lived on earth. He also told a story about a wedding to teach the people something.
   The wedding took place in the evening, after dark. There were ten young women who were to take part in the ceremony. They all had lamps with them. Five of these young women were wise: they took along extra oil for their lamps, as no-one knew how long they would have to wait for the bridegroom to arrive (25:1–4).
2. The ten young women waited so long for the bridegroom that they fell asleep. At midnight, the message came that the bridegroom had arrived (25:5–7). **Describe their hurried preparations.**
3. By then, the foolish girls' lamps were going out because they did not have enough oil. The wise ones did not have enough oil to lend them, so they had to go and buy some (25:8–9).
4. When the foolish young women returned the wedding feast had already started (25:10). They could not go in once the celebrations had begun, for the bridegroom had not been introduced to them (25:11–12). **Show Picture 11.**

Our Response to the Story

Weddings are joyful occasions. However, if we do not prepare well and everybody is not ready when they should be, it can cause unhappiness.

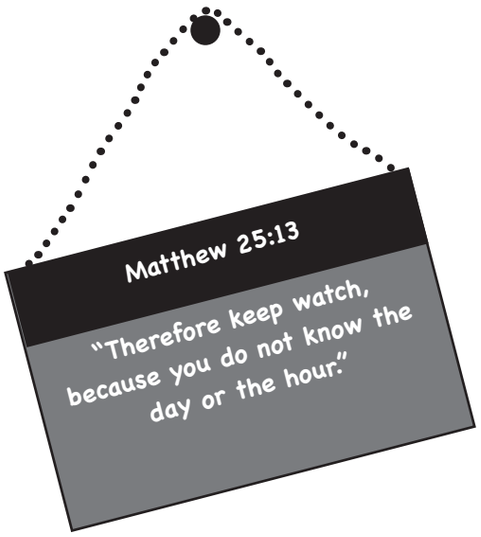
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Explain whom the different people in the story represent. Jesus is the bridegroom. He will come to this world again to take those who belong to him to live with God. That will be a day of great celebration for all who join him. It was so important for the wise girls to be able to take part in the wedding feast that they prepared ahead of time. It did not matter that they did not know beforehand exactly when the bridegroom would arrive, because they were ready to join him.

Instil the Memory Verse

How can we be ready for Jesus' coming? By loving and faithfully following him every moment of our lives. The next story tells us more about that.



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