



Wise & Foolish Virgins

Level A

Ages 3-6

Matthew 25:1-13

Lesson Focus: Getting my heart ready for heaven

Reading Summary: Jesus compared the kingdom of heaven to five wise and five foolish virgins who took lamps and went to meet a bridegroom. The wise virgins were prepared with extra oil for their lamps, but the foolish virgins were not. The bridegroom was delayed. While they waited, the virgins slept. When the bridegroom came, the foolish virgins begged the wise ones for more oil, but they told them to go and buy it at the market in case there was not enough oil for them all. While the foolish virgins were gone, the bridegroom came. He and the wise virgins went in to the wedding. The door was shut. When the foolish virgins returned, they could not go in.

Lesson 3		Materials Supplied	Materials Needed
1. Welcome Warm-up Activity (2-3 minutes)	Sing a Song	Give Me Oil in My Lamp directions p. 2 <i>Give Me Oil in My Lamp</i> p. 5	<i>optional:</i> device for listening to the song online at bitly.com/GiveMeOil
2. Focus on the Word Use all activities (5-7 minutes)	Read the Word and Talk About It	see <i>Reading Summary</i> above discussion guide p. 2 teaching picture p. 6	Bible or copy of Matthew 25:1-13 <i>optional:</i> oil, lamp or candle
3. Learn by Doing Choose 1-2 activities (15-20 minutes)	Make create a model of an oil lamp from play dough, salt ceramic, or clay	Salt Clay Oil Lamp directions p. 3 <i>Salt Clay Dough and Play Dough Recipes</i> p. 7	clay or ingredients for making salt clay dough or play dough (see p. 7), paper plates, a marker <i>optional:</i> toothpicks or forks
	Make create a picture with moving parts to illustrate the idea of getting your heart ready for heaven	My Heart Goes to Heaven directions pp. 3-4 <i>My Heart and Heaven</i> p. 8	stiff paper for printing, regular paper, ribbon or yarn cut into 12" (30 cm) lengths, pencils, crayons or markers, tape, large wooden beads, scissors, single hole punch
	Coloring Picture	Oil Jar and Lamp p. 9	crayons, markers or colored pencils
4. Wrap It Up (2-3 minutes)	Memory Verse introduce the memory verse for the week	Memory Verse <i>Parent Notes</i> p. 10	

1. Welcome Warm-up Activity

Sing a Song: *Give Me Oil in My Lamp*

Optional: Device to listen to video of song at bitly.com/GiveMeOil.

Our story today is about people who used oil lamps to give them light when it was dark. Let's make our hands into oil lamps. Put your hands together as if you were holding oil in them! Now we're going to sing a song about having oil in our lamps.



Sing *Give Me Oil in My Lamp*. The words and music are on p. 31. If you would like, choose a recording from the playlist at bitly.com/GiveMeOil to listen to or sing along with. (Lyrics vary, so all versions in the playlist provide accompaniment only.)

Introduce each verse before singing it. The verses are: 1. Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning; 2. Give me joy in my heart, keep me singing; 3. Give me love in my heart, keep me serving.

Now let's listen to find out how many people had lamps in our story, and what happened to them.

2. Focus on the Word

Read: Matthew 25:1-13. A teaching picture is available on p. 6.

In our story there were ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Who do you think the bridegroom could be? The Lord!

The virgins (unmarried young women) waited and waited for the bridegroom (the Lord) to come. Have you ever waited for something exciting—your birthday, for instance? It can be hard to wait! What happened to the virgins while they were waiting? They fell asleep.

At midnight the virgins heard that the bridegroom was coming! They went to light their lamps but the foolish virgins could not light theirs. Why not? They had no oil left.

Why could the wise virgins light their lamps? Because they had brought extra oil.

(Optional: show a bottle of oil or light a lamp or candle.)

The oil that could burn bright and warm in the wise virgins' lamps is like love that burns in our hearts. We shine brightly when we love the Lord and do the things that He asks us, like helping others. In what ways do you shine! How do you share the Lord's love through helping others?

Do you want to live in heaven? Of course you do! The Lord gives angels the greatest happiness, and He wants each of us to have this happiness as well.

The foolish virgins in our story are like people who *know* what is right, but they do not really love it in their hearts or actually *do* what is right. The wise virgins could not give them more oil just like other people cannot give us a love for the Lord. We must choose to have it for ourselves.

When the bridegroom came, the wise virgins went in to the wedding with him. Imagine how happy they must have been! The Lord rejoices each time do what is right because we love to do it. When we do this, He can give us the happiness of heaven.

3. Learn by Doing

Choose one or two activities

Choice Salt Clay Oil Lamp

Children will make simple models of lamps from salt ceramic, play dough or clay. Lamps will not be filled or lit, but you can add tissue “flames” to help children picture how they would have worked.



1. What does your family do when it gets dark in your home?
2. Today we use electric lights when it is dark. Long ago people did not have electricity, and so they burned candles, or made lamps out of clay. They filled the lamps with oil and put wicks in the lamps to burn the oil and light up the room.
3. We are going to make lamps like the ones the virgins carried when they went to meet the bridegroom.
4. Give each child a small ball of salt ceramic, play dough or clay to work with. Start by rolling it into a fat “sausage” on a table or between two hands, and then pinch each end so that it looks like a leaf.
5. Shape a handle at one end and a pouring spout at the other. Use thumbs to make a “well” in the clay.
6. *Optional:* Older children might like to press patterns on their lamps using toothpicks or forks.
7. Practice walking and holding lamps. Imagine what having a light in the dark would have felt like—and how excited the virgins must have been to see the bridegroom.
8. Put each lamp on a paper plate with the child’s name on it. The lamps will air dry in a few days.

Note: Lamps will not hold oil and are not designed to be lit.

Choice My Heart Goes to Heaven

The oil in the lamps of the virgins is like a living love that can carry us to heaven after our life on this earth.

1. When you love the Lord and also love other people, your heart is being prepared for heaven!
2. Today, we’re going to make a picture to show how a loving heart can take you to heaven.
3. Give each child a heart template, a blank piece of paper, and a pencil. **Note:** Younger children may need help with the next two steps.



Materials Needed for Each Child

A fist-sized lump of salt ceramic, play dough or clay to make a lamp (see recipes on p. 7); a paper plate; marker
Optional: toothpick or fork to decorate the lamp

Prepare in Advance

Purchase or make clay or playdough. Gather supplies.

New Church Concept Put into Practice

Unless the will and intellect, or affection and thought, or charity and faith, enter into and clothe themselves in works or deeds when possible, they are like puffs of air which pass away, or like mirages which fade and vanish. Furthermore, they remain for the first time in a person and become matters of life when the person puts them into practice and does them. See *Divine Love and Wisdom* 216

Materials Needed for Each Child

Copy of *My Heart and Heaven* p. 8 printed on stiff paper, a piece of regular paper, a 12” (30 cm) piece of ribbon or yarn, a pencil, crayons or markers, one large wooden bead, tape

Prepare in Advance

See next page.

My Heart Goes to Heaven *continued*

4. Show the children how to fold the paper in half and put the straight edge of the template on the fold. Hold the template in place while you draw around it.
5. Remove the template and cut out the shape you have drawn. Unfold it and see your heart!
6. Distribute crayons or markers. Invite the children to draw pictures of themselves on their hearts.
7. Give each child a length of ribbon or yarn and a piece of tape. Tape one end of the ribbon to the back of the heart just below the center top.
8. Hand out the pictures of the Lord in heaven. Help children thread the string through the hole in the picture from front to back.
9. Tie a large wooden bead to the other end of the ribbon or yarn to keep it from slipping back through the hole.
10. Show children what happens when they pull gently on the bead. Their heart gets pulled up to be with the Lord in heaven! This is what will happen some day if we love the Lord and other people.



Prepare in Advance

Print copies of *My Heart and Heaven* p. 8 on stiff paper. Cut out the pieces so you have an image of the Lord in heaven and a heart template for each student. Punch a hole over the black circle near the bottom of picture of the Lord. Cut ribbon or yarn to 12" (30 cm) lengths. *Optional:* Depending on the age range and size of your class, you may wish to cut out the hearts ahead of time also.

New Testament Loving Others

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.
John 13:34-35

Materials Needed

Copies of *Oil Jar and Lamp* p. 9; crayons, markers, or colored pencils.

Choice

Coloring Picture: Oil Jar and Lamp

Hand out copies of *Oil Jar and Lamp* (p. 9) for children to color.

4. Wrap It Up

Memory Verse

Help children start learning the memory verse by reading it one phrase at a time. Invite the children to repeat each phrase after you. Once they are comfortable with the phrases, repeat the entire verse with the children.

The kingdom of heaven is like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

Matthew 25:1

Closing

The Lord wants us to have loving hearts that shine for Him. Our hearts are loving when we do what the Lord tells us to *because we love Him*.

Give a Parent Note (p. 10) to children as they leave.

Give Me Oil in My Lamp



1. Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning.
Give me oil in my lamp, I pray.
Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning.
Keep me burning till the break of day.

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King of kings!
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King!

2. Give me joy in my heart, keep me singing.
Give me joy in my heart, I pray.
Give me joy in my heart, keep me singing.
Keep me singing till the break of day.
(Refrain)

3. Give me love in my heart, keep me sharing.
Give me love in my heart, I pray.
Give me love in my heart, keep me sharing.
Keep me sharing till the break of day.
(Refrain)



Sing-along tracks are available at bitly.com/GiveMeOil



Salt Clay Dough and Play Dough Recipes

Salt Clay Dough *(no cooking needed—easy to make in class)*

Ingredients and supplies

- 1 cup salt
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup water (add food coloring here if desired)
- ½ teaspoon powdered alum
- 1 teaspoon cooking oil (helps keep dough fresh and pliable)
- mixing bowl and spoon
- cup to measure ingredients

Directions

Mix all ingredients together in order given. Knead and shape as desired.

Play Dough *(make ahead of time)*

Ingredients and supplies

- 1 cup water
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- ½ cup salt
- 1 tablespoon cream of tartar
- food coloring
- saucepan
- spoon for stirring
- 1 cup flour
- cup to measure ingredients

Directions

1. Combine water, oil, salt, cream of tartar and food coloring in a saucepan. Heat until warm.
2. Remove from the heat and add flour.
3. Stir, then knead until smooth. The cream of tartar makes this dough last six months or longer.
4. Store the dough in an airtight container or freezer bag.

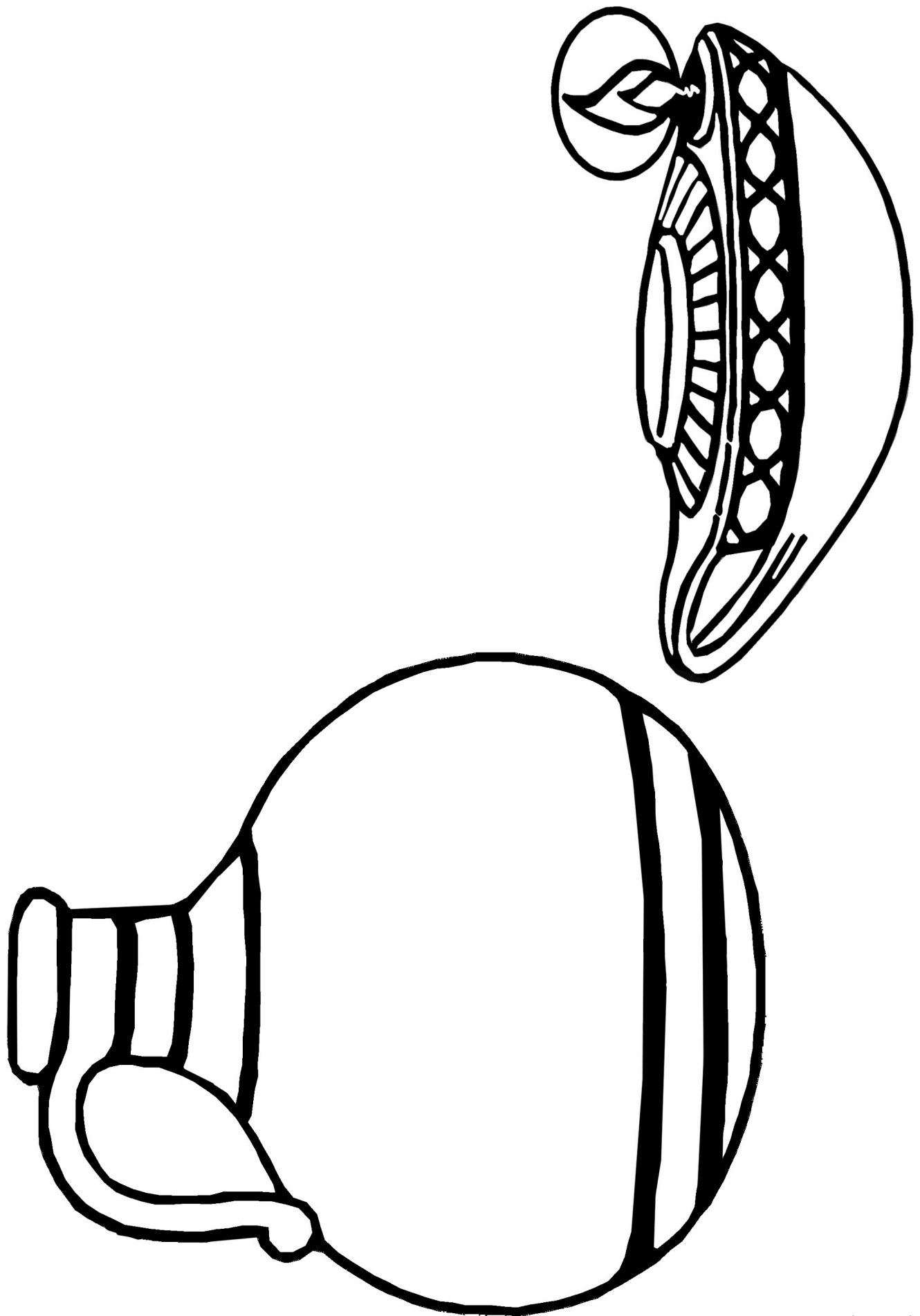


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Heart Template



My Heart and Heaven



Oil Jar and Lamp

Parent Notes

Make a copy for each child. Hand out as children leave.

PARENT NOTE

Dear Parents,

Today we learned about five wise virgins and five foolish virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom (who represents the Lord). Ask your child what happened when he came.

We can be like the wise virgins when we have love in our hearts and do what the Lord tells us to because we love Him.

We encourage you to help your child remember this week's memory verse by saying it once or twice a day—in the morning, at mealtime, or before bed.



Memory Verse

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