Learn by Doing

Choice Wise and Foolish Virgins



Reenact the parable of the wise and foolish virgins. Boys as well as girls can act the part of the virgins, keeping in mind that the story is about each person preparing for heaven—and that together people who follow the Lord and enter heaven are the church, the "bride" of the Lord.

1. Have you ever been to a wedding? What did you notice? What does a bride wear? What does a groom wear?
2. Our story today is about a special wedding. It is about people wanting to have their lives joined with the Lord through being kind and loving to others in all that they do.
3. The wise virgins took lamps and also a supply of oil to keep them burning. The foolish virgins took lamps, but did not have extra oil.
4. Assign roles, or let children choose roles.
5. *Optional*: give each virgin a lamp, and all the wise virgins an "oil" vessel as well and help the children dress in simple costumes.
6. Get the children into their starting positions. Act out the story using the script provided (p. 2).
7. If there is interest and time, repeat the story, either with the same actors or assigning new roles.

Materials Needed

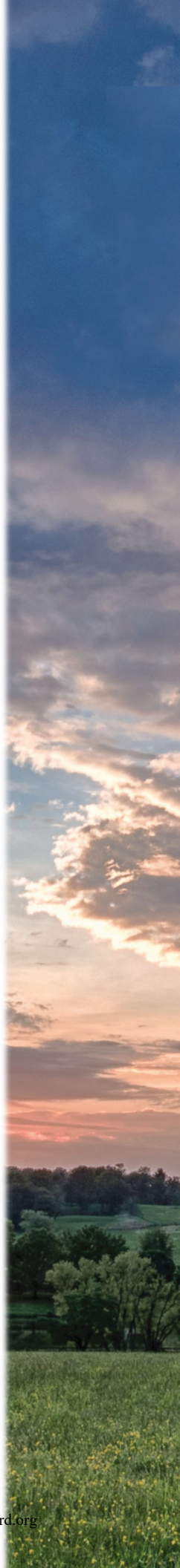
Wise and Foolish Virgins Script p. 2; space for acting; furniture, blocks, tape, etc. to outline a marketplace and a room for the bridegroom to enter
optional: oil lamps and vessels for virgins, e.g. electric or unlit votive candles; simple costumes

Prepare in Advance

Set up your space with a marketplace and a wedding area.
Optional: gather props and costumes

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



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Wise and Foolish Virgins Script

Adapted from Matthew 25:1-13

Parts: Narrator (reading part for student or teacher), bridegroom, (town) crier, wise virgins, foolish virgins, sellers in the marketplace. For a small group, have children play multiple roles. For a large group, add additional virgins, sellers, etc.

The kingdom of heaven is like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

Wise and foolish virgins start take their lamps and go to meet the bridegroom. Wise virgins have an extra jar of oil.

But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

All lie down to sleep.

But at midnight a cry was heard: "Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!"

Crier pretends to shout so all can hear.

Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out."

Wise virgins fill their lamps; foolish virgins beg for oil.

But the wise answered, "No, in case there should not be enough for us and you; but go to those who sell and buy for yourselves."

Wise virgins do not share their oil, but point toward the marketplace. Foolish virgins go to the marketplace to buy oil from the sellers.

And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

Bridegroom comes. Wise virgins go with the bridegroom into the wedding room and shut the door.

Afterward the foolish virgins came, saying, "Lord, Lord, open to us!"

Foolish virgins knock on the door and ask to come in.

But he answered and said, "Assuredly I say to you, I do not know you."

Bridegroom comes to the door and looks out at the foolish virgins, then shuts the door again.

Watch therefore, for you do not know the day or the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

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