



Wise & Foolish Virgins

Level B

Ages 7-10

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)	True or False?	Wise or Foolish? directions p. 2	
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 pictures pp. 5-6	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)	Act-It-Out children recreate the story of the wise and foolish virgins	Wise and Foolish Virgins directions p. 3 <i>Wise and Foolish Virgins Script</i> p. 7	open space for acting; furniture, blocks, tape or mats to mark out a marketplace and a room for the bridegroom to enter <i>optional:</i> oil lamps and vessels for virgins, e.g. electric or unlit votive candles; simple costumes
	Make create a lamp that can burn olive oil using a glass jar with a metal lid	Glass Jar Oil Lamps directions pp. 3-4 <i>Oil Lamp Decorations</i> p. 8	small glass jars with metal lids, thick candle wicks or paper towels, hammer, nail, decorating supplies will vary (see p. 8)
	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

Wise or Foolish?

I'm going to read some sentences to you. I want you to tell me if each sentence is something that is a good idea, or *wise*, or something that is a bad idea, or *foolish*.

1. Looking both ways before crossing the road. **W**
2. Running across a road without looking to see if cars are coming. **F**
3. Eating food without washing your hands first. **F**
4. Washing your hands before eating food. **W**
5. Reading the Word. **W**
6. Ignoring what the Word teaches and doing what you want instead. **F**

Our story today is about ten people. Five were wise, and five were foolish. Let's learn about them.

2. Focus on the Word

Read: Matthew 25:1-13. Teaching pictures are available on pp. 5-6.

This story offers an important lesson about heaven and how we should live in order to go there.

Ten virgins (unmarried young women) took lamps and went to meet a bridegroom. Who do you think the bridegroom represents? The Lord. The virgins represent people like you and me.

Remember that when the Lord spoke in parables He was also giving deeper spiritual messages. What might "meeting the Bridegroom" mean? Meeting the Lord after we die.

When the foolish virgins heard that the bridegroom was coming at midnight they could not light their lamps, but the wise ones could. Why? The wise virgins had vessels containing extra oil so they could refill their lamps as the oil was used up; the foolish virgins only had the oil in their lamps, so they ran out when the oil in the lamps was burned.

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

The oil that could burn bright and warm in the lamps is like love for the truths in the Lord's Word. If we love those truths, they will shine brightly in our minds. One of the ways to let them shine is to help others. In what ways do you like to shine?

Do you want to live in heaven after your life on earth is finished? Most likely everyone you talk to wants to live in heaven eventually.

This story gives us an important message about heaven. We can only come into heaven if we love what the Word teaches and do what it tells us.

The foolish virgins are like people who know what is right, but do not love it in their hearts. The foolish virgins could not borrow oil from the wise ones. They had to get it for themselves. In the same way, nobody can give another person love. 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 we choose to do what is right because we love to. When we do this, He can give us the happiness and peace of heaven here on earth and in heaven after we die.

3. Learn by Doing

Choose one or two activities

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. 7).
7. If there is interest and time, repeat the story, either with the same actors or assigning new roles.

Choice Glass Jar Oil Lamps

Create lamps that shine! These simple decorative glass jars give off a sweet fragrance when they burn olive oil. Choose from several styles of decoration.



1. When the Lord was on earth homes did not have electricity. When darkness fell, people would fill small clay lamps with olive oil, put in a freshly trimmed wick, and light them. Lamps were put on shelves or tables to light the room with a warm glow. It would take quite a few lamps to make a room look bright.
2. Today we will make oil lamps. They are not like the ones used when the Lord was on earth, but they can be used to burn olive oil for light.
3. Give each child a jar and the supplies they will need to decorate it.

Materials Needed

Wise and Foolish Virgins Script p. 7; 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

Materials Needed

Small glass jar with metal lid for each child, thick candle wicks or tightly twisted paper towels, materials to decorate the jars (see options on p. 8)

Prepare in Advance

Gather jars with lids and clean if needed. Purchase decorations and wicks. (Or tightly twist paper towels to replace wicks.) Create a sample lamp to show children the finished project.

Glass Jar Oil Lamps *continued*

4. When the jar is decorated, put the lid on it. Using a hammer and nail, carefully punch a hole in the lid that is just large enough for a wick to pass through. (If the hole is too big, the wick will slide down into the jar.) Give assistance as needed.
5. Cut a wick that is long enough to reach the bottom of the jar. Take the lid off and carefully thread the wick through the hole, starting on the top. **Note:** the metal edges of the punched hole may be sharp. Put the lid back on the jar to complete assembly of the lamp.
6. We recommend that you do not put oil in the jars during Sunday school to avoid the risk of spills on the way home. Suggest that children ask their parents about putting olive oil in the jars once they are home. The entire wick should be soaked in oil in order for it to light and continue to burn. The jar does not need to be filled all the way, but the wick does need to reach the oil.



Wicks Note: Thick wicks work best with oil; thin wicks do not work well. If you do not have wicks, use tightly twisted paper towels instead.



Choice

Coloring Picture: Oil Jar and Lamp

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

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

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

4. Wrap It Up

Memory Verse

Help children start to learn the memory verse by saying the first phrase and inviting the children to repeat it after you. Continue until you have said the entire verse. Repeat the whole verse a few times with the children until they can say it with confidence.

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

Matthew 25:1

Closing

We are like the wise virgins when we love what the Lord teaches in His Word and do it because we love it. This may be difficult at first. We may not always want to do it, but the Lord will help if we ask Him, and will bring us into heaven.

Give *Parent Notes* (p. 10) to children as they leave.





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.

Oil Lamp Decorations

Decoupage

Supplies:

- tissue paper in a variety of flame-like colors
- glue
- paintbrush to spread glue
- jar with lid
- thick candle wick
- hammer and nail

Directions:

1. Tear the tissue into flame-like strips.
2. Spread glue on an area of the side of the jar. Place the tissue flames on the glue.
3. Spread glue over the top of the tissue flames.
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 until the jar is covered in flames.
5. Allow to dry.
6. Fasten the lid on the jar. Use the hammer and nail to punch a hole in the lid large enough for the wick to pass through.
7. Remove the lid from the jar. Thread the wick through the lid.
8. Screw the lid back on to the jar.



Jewels

Supplies:

- “jewels” that may be stuck to any surface with peel-off backing (purchase at craft store)
- jar with lid
- thick candle wick
- hammer and nail

Directions:

1. Remove the backs from “jewel” stickers and place them on the jar.
2. Fasten the lid on the jar. Use the hammer and nail to punch a hole in the lid large enough for the wick to pass through.
3. Remove the lid from the jar. Thread the wick through the lid.
4. Screw the lid back on to the jar.



Stickers

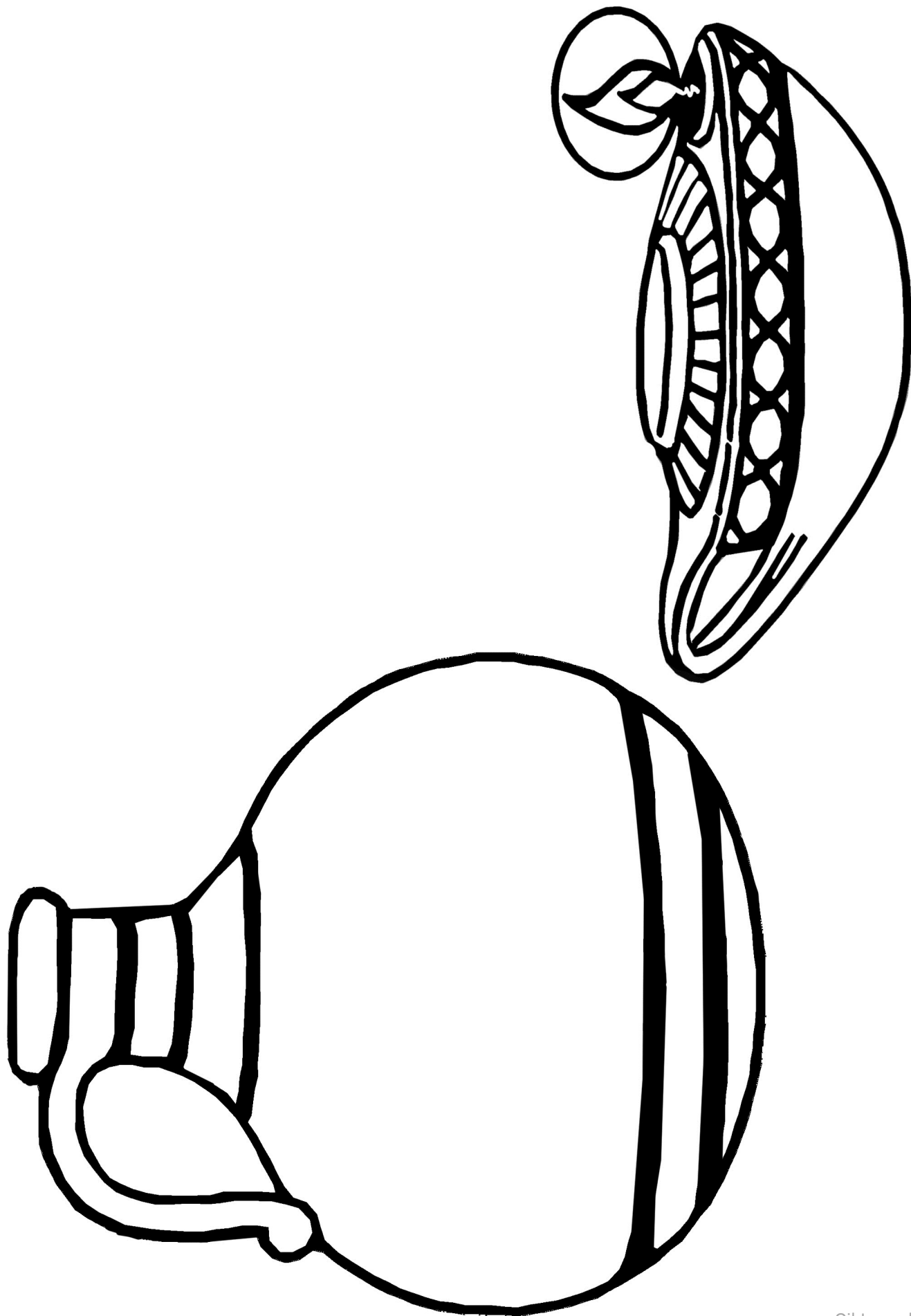
Supplies:

- stickers
- jar with lid
- thick candle wick
- hammer and nail

Directions:

1. Remove the backing from the stickers and place on the jar.
2. Fasten the lid on the jar. Use the hammer and nail to punch a hole in the lid large enough for the wick to pass through.
3. Remove the lid from the jar. Thread the wick through the lid.
4. Screw the lid back on to the jar.





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 ten virgins who went out to meet a bridegroom. Five were wise and five were foolish. Ask your child what happened to the wise virgins and to the foolish virgins.

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

The kingdom of heaven is like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Matthew 25:1



PARENT NOTE

Dear Parents,

Today we learned about ten virgins who went out to meet a bridegroom. Five were wise and five were foolish. Ask your child what happened to the wise virgins and to the foolish virgins.

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

The kingdom of heaven is like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Matthew 25:1



PARENT NOTE

Dear Parents,

Today we learned about ten virgins who went out to meet a bridegroom. Five were wise and five were foolish. Ask your child what happened to the wise virgins and to the foolish virgins.

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

The kingdom of heaven is like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Matthew 25:1



PARENT NOTE

Dear Parents,

Today we learned about ten virgins who went out to meet a bridegroom. Five were wise and five were foolish. Ask your child what happened to the wise virgins and to the foolish virgins.

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

The kingdom of heaven is like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Matthew 25:1

