THE TEN VIRGINS

New Testament Lesson #100

Jesus said the time of the coming of the kingdom of heaven would be like this:

Ten young women had been invited to be a part of a festive wedding parade. It would be their duty to meet the bridegroom and accompany him to the bride's home on the evening of the wedding banquet. Each bridesmaid picked up her oil-burning lamp and hurried off to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were wise and brought a bottle filled with extra oil. But the other five were foolish and did not bring extra oil.

The bridegroom was late, and the women fell asleep while waiting for him. At midnight, someone shouted, "Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!"

The women woke up and began to trim the wicks of their lamps to make them burn more brightly. As they did this, the foolish bridesmaids noticed that their lamps were going out. They wanted the others to give them some oil, but the wise women replied, "No, there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves."

The five hurried off to the oil merchant, but while they were gone the bridegroom came. Those who were ready went with him to the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later, the foolish came back and begged to be let in. The bridegroom responded that he didn't know them, and the door remained shut.

Jesus said, "Keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- This parable may echo the story of Noah, "when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built" (1 Peter 3:20), separating the wise from the foolish. In this parable Jesus said, "The virgins who were ready went in ... And the door was shut" (v. 10; cf Genesis 7:7,16).

The Ten Virgins

I. Jesus said the time of the coming of the kingdom of heaven would be like this:
   - A. Ten young women were to meet the bridegroom and accompany him to the bride's home.
   - B. Each bridesmaid brought an oil lamp. Five brought extra oil.
   - C. The bridegroom didn't arrive until midnight. The foolish bridesmaids asked the wise women for extra oil but were told "No."
   - D. The five foolish women went to buy oil. The wise women went with the bridegroom to the banquet.
   - E. The door was shut. The foolish women arrived but were not allowed in.

II. Jesus said, "Keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."

ANSWER KEY:

1. wedding	2. meet
3. lamp	4. oil
5. late	6. ready
7. burn	8. buy
9. too	10. shut

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CHILDREN'S BIBLE ACTIVITY SHEETS

THE TEN VIRGINS

MATTHEW 25:1-13

One word is missing from each page of the story.
Find the word in each set below that doesn't belong.
Write it on the story page that has the same number.
Read the story pages in numerical order.

walk
wedding
run ①

meet
table
chair ②

cat
lamp
dog ③

oil
blue
green ④

late
sunrise
morning ⑤

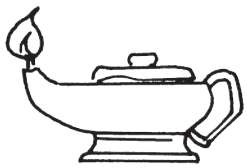
book
newspaper
ready ⑥

stars
burn
moon ⑦

too
socks
shoes ⑨

buy
glass
window ⑧

vegetables
fruit
shut ⑩



- ① -
10 young women were invited to be part of a festive _____ parade.

- ② -
They were to _____ the bridegroom and go with him to the bride's house on the evening of the wedding banquet.

- ③ -
Each woman took her oil _____ and went to meet him.

- ④ -
5 brought extra _____.
5 didn't.

- ⑤ -
The groom was _____, and the women fell asleep.

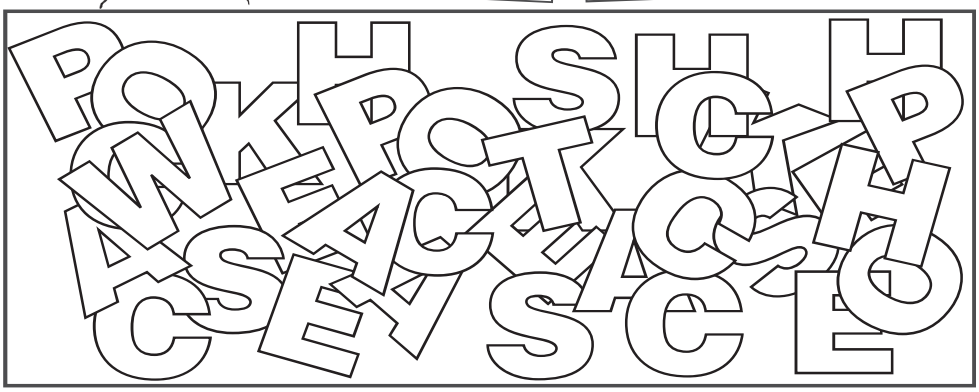
- ⑥ -
Finally someone shouted to get _____ to go!

- ⑦ -
So they fixed their lamps to _____ again.

- ⑧ -
The 5 who didn't bring extra oil needed some. The others told them that they would have to _____ their own.

- ⑨ -
So they went. But they were _____ late returning. The groom and the others were already at the feast.

- ⑩ -
The door was _____.
No one else could come in!



Color the letters not covered by another letter. The letters form a word that fits the blank.

"Keep _____, because you do not know the day or the hour." Matthew 25:13

Name _____

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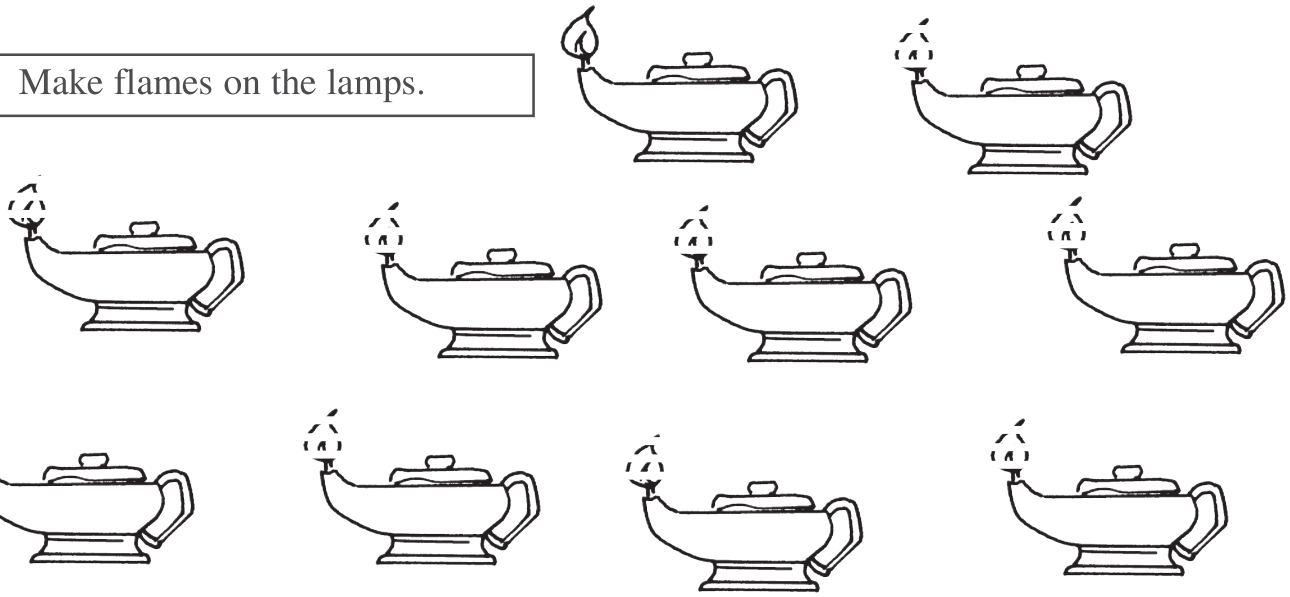
10 young women had oil lamps.
They were going to meet the bridegroom for the wedding feast.

Make flames on the lamps.



5 of the women ran out of oil for their lamps. Put an X on 5 lamps.

Only 5 women went to the feast. The others were too late. Make 5 and 5 .

Name _____

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