

Theme; Be prepared to meet Jesus

Scripture; Matthew 25: 1-13 There were 10 girls who went out to meet the bride groom. Five of them were smart and five were foolish. When the foolish took their lamps, they did not take extra oil. By midnight their oil ran out but the other five took extra oil and were able to light the way for the bridegroom.

Object; Bells -- one per child; flashlight White board and marker



(Before you begin, give each child a bell. Have kids hold the bell as still as possible until you give them further instructions.)

Wow! In the past year we've seen many natural disasters in our world, such as floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis, tornadoes, and fires. One thing that we hear over and over again these days is that it's very important for us to be prepared in case of an emergency.

Being prepared can mean the difference between safe or sorry...so be prepared.

I remember when I was in school, we used to have **fire drills**. They would ring the school bell **three times**. (Invite kids to ring their bells three times.) All of the students lined up and marched outside the school building to a safe place. When they were sure it was safe, **they rang the bell two times** and the students returned to their classrooms. (Invite kids to ring their bells two times.) If there was a tornado drill, they **rang the bell four times**. (Invite kids to ring their bells four times.) The students lined up and marched to a safe room in the center of the building where they would **"duck and cover under a table."** The teachers always carried **flashlights** in case the lights went out. **When it was safe**, they rang the **bell two times**. (Invite kids to ring their bells two times.) Then the students returned to their classrooms.

It's important to be prepared when something unexpected happens. In our school, it was important for all of the students and teachers to **know the warning signal, where to go, and the signal that told them it was safe to return to their classrooms.** The teachers had to make sure there were batteries in the flashlights and the flashlights were working properly.

(Turn on the flashlight and shine it around the room.)

OR Instead of telling this story ask the children to tell about how their school gets prepared. Write their suggestions on a board.

Jesus once told a story to teach us the importance of being prepared. In Jesus' story there was a wedding. In those days electricity had not been invented, so the ten bridesmaids had to use their oil lamps at night. The bride groom had traveled all day to get married and it was getting dark out now. The girls had waited all day for him to arrive and had their oil lamps burning all evening. By the time he arrived 5 of the lamps had burnt out!!! Jesus said that five of them were foolish because they didn't bring any extra oil to put in their lamps. When it was time to go out and meet the bridegroom, they were out of oil. The other five were very wise and had brought plenty of oil for their lamps. When it was time to go out and meet the bridegroom, they were ready. The other five had to go home.

In this story, the bridegroom is Jesus and you and I are the bridesmaids. One day we're going to meet Jesus and we must be prepared because we don't know exactly when He's coming. The great news is, what we do to prepare is pretty simple. We must invite Jesus to come into our hearts so He can help us know what to do to get ready. When we do that, there's no problem we can't handle together.

Dear Jesus, we know one day we'll get to meet you face to face. Help us get ready for that wonderful day. In Jesus' name, amen.

Let's sing about Jesus!

Tell me the stories of Jesus, I love to hear.
Things I would ask Him to tell me, if He were here.
Scenes by the cities, Tales of the sea.
Stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

First, let me hear how the children, stood round His knee.
And I shall fancy His blessing resting on me.
Words full of kindness, Deeds full of grace.
All in the lovelight of Jesus face.

Teach me to follow His lessons, I love to hear.
And be His sons and His daughters, when He comes near.
Love one another, forgiving each one.
Listening to Jesus, He'll say "Well done!"



Colour this picture for your Parable Booklet



There were 10 girls who went out to meet the bride groom.
Five of them were smart and five were foolish.
When the foolish took their lamps, they did not take extra oil.
By midnight their oil ran out but the other five took extra oil
and were able to light the way for the bridegroom.



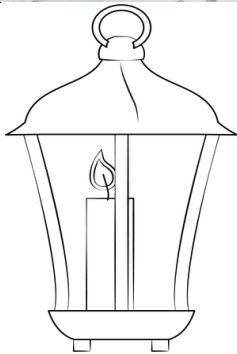
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Let's do a Craft!!!



Choose a colour of construction paper and fold it in half. Then cut a straight line starting on the folded side, about 4 inches, stopping about one inch from the side,. Do this about 8 times. Open the paper and glue the two long sides together, Add a handle.

Decorate as you wish. If you have white or yellow tissue paper, loosely bunch up one sheet of paper and gently place inside the lantern.



Using the large picture on page 5. Glue it to a piece of construction paper. Cut out the center around the candle. Colour the lantern and the candle. Glue a piece of waxed paper on the back of the lantern. Glue, your choice of tissue paper, on the back of the waxed paper and hang it in the window.

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 'til the break of day.

*Sing Hosanna, Sing Hosanna 'til the break of day.
Sing Hosanna to the King of Kings!*

2. Give me joy in my heart, keep me singing.

3. Give me love in my heart, keep me serving.

4. Give me faith in my heart, keep me praying.



