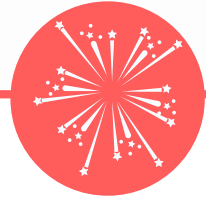


# “PREPARE THE WAY”

## SERIES

### “PREPARED FOR THE BRIDEGROOM”

WEEK 2



#### SPARKS

- Have you ever been caught unprepared for something important? How did it feel?
- Have you ever relied on someone else’s work or preparation and it didn’t work out? What did you learn?
- Who in your life do you feel closest to, and what do you do to keep that relationship strong?



#### WORD

“...The bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet, and the door was shut.”

Matthew 25:10  
(Read also Matthew 25:1-13 for context)

Scripture tells us that one day we will be with the Lord forever, and this hope is meant to encourage and strengthen us as we wait. God’s desire is not only that we know about His coming, but that we are made holy and fully ready for Him. The Bible paints a

beautiful picture of a wedding celebration, not centered on a place, but on the love, covenant, and commitment between the Bridegroom and the bride. In the same way, a wedding is not meant to showcase the beauty of a venue, but to reveal the love shared by the bridegroom and the bride. Our preparation, therefore, is not about outward arrangements, but about a life set apart for Christ. This week, we are invited to examine our lives and ask: Are we truly prepared for the Bridegroom when He comes?

## 1. STAY ALERT AND READY.

*Matthew 25:13*

*‘Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.’*

Jesus calls His followers to live with spiritual alertness and urgency. Be on guard because we do not know the day or the hour of His return. Do not be consumed with outward living and earthly priorities while failing to give priority to the life you have in Christ and the Kingdom of Heaven. Being ready means keeping your focus on what truly matters in God’s eyes. What areas of your life are distracting you from being fully ready for Christ’s return?

1

## 2. FAITH IS PERSONAL.

*Matthew 25:4*

*‘The wise ones took oil in jars along with their lamps.’*

*Matthew 25:9*

*‘There may not be enough for both us and you.’*

Salvation is personal, it cannot be piggybacked, gained through connections, or inherited from someone else’s faith. The parable of the ten virgins shows that each person must personally respond to Christ and cultivate a genuine faith. The wise took oil for themselves; they could not rely on others to supply it for them. Knowing the Bridegroom requires your own commitment, not the faith of family, friends, or church attendance. Is your faith truly yours, or are you relying on someone else’s relationship with Christ?

2

### 3. RELATIONSHIP OVER RELIGION.

*Matthew 25:10*

*'The door was shut.'*

*Matthew 25:12*

*'But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.'"*

God is a God of many chances, but there comes a time when His justice declares: the time is up, no more chances. Religious activity, personal interpretation, or tradition cannot replace a true relationship with Christ. The ultimate question is not whether we appear faithful, but whether Jesus truly knows us. Our relationship with Him must be shaped by His Word, not by habits, routines, or what "seems right." Does Jesus truly know you, or is your faith shaped by habits and tradition rather than a personal relationship with Him?

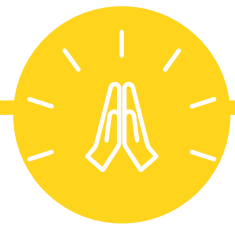
## LIVE IT!

- Encourage group members to stay spiritually alert by holding each other accountable in Bible study and prayer.
- Spend intentional time in God's Word to nurture your own relationship with Him.
- Evaluate your spiritual life: Are you following traditions or truly growing in your relationship with Jesus?



## PRAYER

- Ask God to help you live each day with spiritual urgency and readiness for His return.
- Ask God to help you take full ownership of your spiritual growth and walk with Him.
- Confess any areas of your life where faith has become routine instead of relational. Pray for grace to live authentically for Christ, allowing your actions to reflect your true connection with Him.



## **“PREPARE THE WAY”**

### **SERIES**