

Church at Home Pack – 15th November 2020

Join us for our online service at 10:30am on Sunday at www.ccwsm.org.uk

(Please bear with us as we work out how we continue with our services during this time. There may be a mix of live streamed and online services – we will keep you informed.)

If you like, join in with the discussion on Facebook with our church family (@ccwsm)!

In some sections we make several suggestions of ideas. Some may be more appropriate to you or the different people in your family than others. We're not expecting you to do all of them (although you are very welcome to!) Choose the ones which best suit you.

GATHER TOGETHER

A prayer to start –

We gather here, at the end of one week
and the beginning of another.

Lord of decades and days,
centuries and seconds,
we stop now, for this moment,
and turn together to you –
who holds all time in your hand.

Make us ready to receive you,
as we gather here today.

Amen.

Action reminder –

From the top of my head
(*Touch head*)

to the tips of my toes;
(*Touch toes*)

from the lobes of my ears
(*Touch ear lobes*)

to the end of my nose;
(*Touch nose*)

from my back, to my front
(*Turn round*)

to my wiggly fingers,
(*stretch out arms and wiggle fingers*)

God loves me!
(*jump up and down*)



READ TOGETHER

Matthew 25: 1-13



International Children's Bible (ICB)

25 “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten girls who went to wait for the bridegroom. They took their lamps with them. ² Five of the girls were foolish and five were wise. ³ The five foolish girls took their lamps, but they did not take more oil for the lamps to burn. ⁴ The wise girls took their lamps and more oil in jars. ⁵ The bridegroom was very late. All the girls became sleepy and went to sleep. ⁶ “At midnight someone cried out, ‘The bridegroom is coming! Come and meet him!’ ⁷ Then all the girls woke up and got their lamps ready. ⁸ But the foolish girls said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil. Our lamps are going out.’ ⁹ The wise girls answered, ‘No! The oil we have might not be enough for all of us. Go to the people who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰ “So the five foolish girls went to buy oil. While they were gone, the bridegroom came. The girls who were ready went in with the bridegroom to the wedding feast. Then the door was closed and locked. ¹¹ “Later the others came back. They called, ‘Sir, sir, open the door to let us in.’ ¹² But the bridegroom answered, ‘I tell you the truth, I don’t know you.’ ¹³ “So always be ready. You don’t know the day or the time the Son of Man will come.

New International Version (NIV)

25 “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³ The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴ The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵ The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. ⁶ “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ ⁷ “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ ⁹ “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰ “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. ¹¹ “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’ ¹² “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’ ¹³ “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

An Action Story - Be Ready!

Jesus said, ‘You must always be ready!’

Sit up straight.

Keep watch!

Point to eyes.

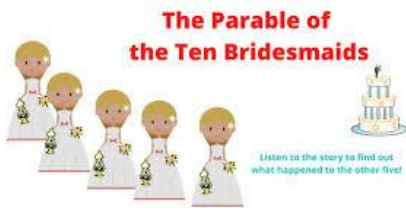
You never know when God will call you.

Cup ear.

You don’t know the day or the time when I will come!’

Jump up.

WATCH TOGETHER



The tale of the ten bridesmaids -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6fXEPaONPc>

TALK TOGETHER

Talk about these events....

- A friend is coming to stay for the weekend. What would you need to do beforehand?
- You are having a surprise birthday party for your Aunty, what would you need to do?
- The Queen is coming to visit a club that you belong to, what would you need to do?
- Jesus is coming back, what do you need to do?

For all of these things, you need to make preparations to get ready for the event. No-one knows when Jesus is going to come back. The Bible does not tell us of a set year, date, day or time. The only person who knows is God. **What do we need to do to be ready?**

STUDY TOGETHER



This parable (and the one we'll look at next week) comes in some teaching Jesus gives to his disciples about the future (see Mt.24:3). The marriage ceremony it describes is very different to what we would know today in our culture. Weddings moved between the family of the bride's house and the groom's house and lasted for one or two weeks! This was a party you did not want to miss out on.

The parable paints a picture of the young women (bridesmaids) waiting for the groom to arrive at the bride's house. No-one knows quite when he's coming but they need to be ready to be welcome him, even if he comes in the middle of the night.

- The lesson from this parable comes from comparing the wise virgins/bridesmaids with the foolish virgins/bridesmaids. What are the differences between the two?
- What sad words do the women hear when they knock on the door?
- Jesus uses these same words in another parable – Lk.13:22-30.
 - Why do the people in this parable think they will be allowed in?
 - What can we learn from this?
- What is the warning Jesus gives in the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids and others like it (Mt.24:42-44; Lk.12:35-40)?
- The Apostle Paul picks up on this teaching in his first letter to the church at Thessalonica. Read 1 Thess.5:1-11
 - What positive things does Paul say we can do so that we can stay 'awake' and not be caught out when Jesus returns?

PLAY TOGETHER

Wedding word game



Play a game about being prepared:

- Sit in a circle or around a table. The first person says, 'I'm going to a wedding, so I've prepared...' and complete the sentence, e.g. a gift, my hair, a car to get there.
- Go round the circle, with each person remembering all the previous items on the list, and adding their own.

Be prepared!

Test how prepared we are:

You will need: *a pencil*

- In pairs, one person stands 'prepared' with their hands out in front and slightly apart. The other person holds a pencil above their partner's waiting hands.
- The person holding the pencil should release it at a random time, and the other person has to try to close their hands and catch it.



MAKE TOGETHER

'Be Ready!' Lamps



If you have some **empty, clean glass jars** (e.g. jam or pasta sauce jars) you can decorate them by sticking on tissue paper, coloured paper, stickers, foil, sparkly bits and bobs – whatever you have to hand! **Add the words 'Be Ready for Jesus!'** Pop in a tea light candle and enjoy the colourful light!

If you don't have any jars to use, why not try making a **baking paper lamp** instead!

You will need:

An empty toilet roll or kitchen roll cardboard tube

Baking paper

Wax crayons (bright and bold colours)

Glue

Scissors

Battery Tea Light Candle

- Cut the tube lengthways (this is to enable you to fit it around the battery candle) and cut out a 'window'
- Colour in the piece of baking paper with lots of bright wax crayon colours
- Glue the paper to the tube and trim to fit
- Switch on your battery candle and pop the tube around it



SING TOGETHER

Be ready – Sovereign Grace Kids: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CuJqMDa05I>

I have decided to follow Jesus

- Lifetree Kids: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sEL0WpeH088>
- Elevation Worship: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRb769P50IQ>

Give me oil in my lamp – Small World Children’s Choir: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59pEeqvDzqo>

People get ready (Jesus is comin’) – Crystal Lewis: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REc6uRQRnV0>

REFLECT TOGETHER

Keep your light shining

Light a candle and sit next to it.

- Think about tomorrow. How can you get yourself ready to keep following Jesus and keep your light shining for him?
 - Maybe you need to spend some time reading God’s Word, the Bible or talking with Jesus
 - Maybe you need to change your thoughts or behaviour.
 - Maybe you need to change some choices you’ve made.
 - Maybe you need to ask for help with something.

Whatever it is, get ready now and ask Jesus to help you keep shining for him.

- Whenever you feel yourself slipping away from Jesus, light a candle (children should use an electric one) and ask Jesus to help you stay alert and shining your light for him.

(Please make sure that you never leave a real candle unattended)



Help others get ready for Jesus

Jesus is going to return and will come back to be with His followers. However, in order for people to meet Jesus, they need to believe in Him and have a relationship with Him.



Think of five people that you know, who do not know or believe in Jesus. Write down their names on a piece of paper or a sticky note.

Reflect quietly for a few minutes as to why each one doesn't know or believe in Jesus and then pray for each person on your list and ask that God will come into their lives. Keep the piece of paper or sticky note inside your Bible and pray regularly for those named.

PRAY TOGETHER

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the story of the ten bridesmaids that reminds us that your plan is not finished yet and that one day you will return.

Help us to prepare our hearts and minds for your return, to be a light that shines in the world and speaks of you to other people.

In these dark and difficult times help us to shine even brighter and to make time each day to grow in knowledge and relationship with you.

Amen.

Let us be like lamps for Jesus in the world.

May his love be our oil,
burning brightly in the darkness,
and lighting the way for others.

Amen.

DO TOGETHER - *Active Oil Filling*

Why not try one of these 'oil filling' activities each day, draw close to God and ask him to fill you up with his Spirit to help you shine a little brighter in the world.



Sing Hosanna

Spend some time worshipping God together. Use the song 'Give me oil in my lamp' (link above) and sing and dance together.

Waiting to be filled

The women in the story had to do a lot of waiting, but five of them did nothing while they waited. Spend some time actively waiting on God, seeking an encounter with him.

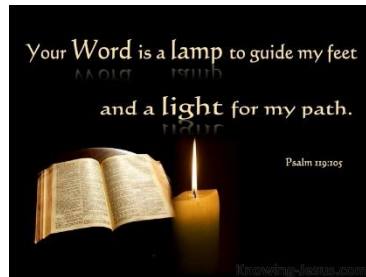
Anointed with oil

Throughout the Bible we see oil used to anoint people often as a symbol that they are being made holy for God. Spend some time praying for each other that you would be made holy for God. You could use the oil you have in your house (olive oil, sunflower oil, etc.) as part of your prayer activity. *(Kitchen paper is good for wiping hands afterwards)*

Filled with knowledge

Read these Bible verses together to see what they say about light, lamps and shining for God:

- Psalm 119:105
- Daniel 12:3
- Matthew 5:15-16
- 2 Corinthians 4:6
- Philippians 2:15
- Revelation 21:23



***Lord, you give light to my lamp.
My God brightens the darkness around me.
Psalm 18:28***

Email: family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk

*Prayers, Action Reminder, Action Story, Play Together, Reflect Together and Do It Together ideas taken and adapted from
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