

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of July 29-August 3, 2024

“PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

When you are invited to an event, do you usually arrive early, on time, or late? What influences the timing of your arrival?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Matthew 25:1-13.

1. How does the parable relate to Matthew 24? In what ways were the 10 virgins alike? In what ways were they different?
2. From this parable what truths about our Lord's return are certain? What details are uncertain? What in this parable concerns you and encourages you?
3. Some scholars see the five foolish virgins as representing people who only professes to follow Christ. They want to participate in the party, but they don't take the invitation seriously enough to make sufficient preparations. Do you agree with this?
4. In what way does the oil represent the Holy Spirit in this parable? What does verse 12 tell us about the difference between the wise and foolish virgins? (See also John 17:3). What is Jesus' point about being prepared when it comes to this parable?
5. What do you think is the point of verses 7-9? What exactly is it that we cannot borrow?
6. For many people, this parable stirs up a mix of emotions. It opens up the richness of the coming kingdom banquet, yet it also makes clear that the foolish and unprepared miss out on the celebration. How does this parable sit with you? What do you learn here about the character of God from this?

7. “The question is not do you know Jesus but does Jesus know you?” How would you describe the difference between our knowledge and work for Jesus, and our being known by him?

NEXT STEPS

- I will check myself if I am in the faith (2 Corinthians 13:5).
- I trust in Christ for my salvation (John 10:27-28).
- I will take Jesus' call to be prepared seriously.
- I will live with an eternal focus.

Don't forget to:

- Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for true readiness and an expectant heart for Jesus' return.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING GUIDE

July 29	Matthew 25:1-13
July 30	Luke 12:13-21
July 31	Hebrews 4:1-7
August 1	Psalms 18:1-15
August 2	Psalms 96:1-13
August 3	Psalms 18:16-29
August 4	Psalms 18:30-50