



Sermon Outline

Key verses

“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.”

Matthew 25:1-4

3 things a wise person does

1. Prepare for eternity

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

Matthew 25:13

2. Hold on to God’s Word

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.”

Matthew 25:8-9

3. Warn others

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.”

Matthew 25:10-11

THE PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS

JULY 7
DISCUSSION GUIDE

Opening Thought

The Parable of the Ten Virgins reminds us that Jesus will be returning one day. It is based on wedding customs in ancient Israel, which took place in the evening. Like the ones who brought enough oil for their lamps, Jesus encourages us to be wise as we live in light of his second coming. Are you ready?

Ice breakers

- Share about a childhood game you remember playing.
- Are you usually early, late, or on time?

Dig Deeper

- How does the knowledge that Jesus will return one day effect you?
- In verse 9, the wise women refuse to share their oil with the others. Why do you think they did so?
- The time will come when the door to the kingdom is closed (v. 10). What implications does that have for us today?
- When have you tried to live off the “oil” of someone else’s faith?
- Read Matthew 24:36-42. In what ways is the return of Jesus like the flood?
- What helps refill your “oil supply” in order to stay alert and keep your focus on Jesus?
- What does it mean to you to “keep watch” for Jesus’ return? (Matthew 24:42, 25:13)
- John shared three things wise people do. Which one most challenges you?

Closing

Jesus urges us to choose wise living and to eagerly await his return. Are you ready? *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”* (2 Corinthians 5:10)