Preschool–Grade 5

The Ten Virgins Craft

Be ready for Jesus · Matthew 25:1–13 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



Harder

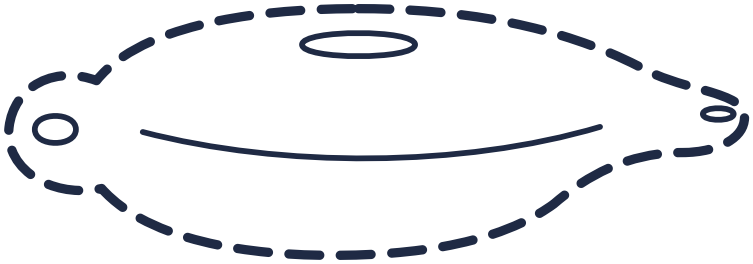
Both levels are a brown paper oil lamp with a yellow and orange paper flame standing above its spout, and a tan oil vessel beside it. The wise "took oil in their vessels with their lamps" (Matthew 25:4). Medium (left): the lamp and the vessel. Harder (right): the same, with a card of ten little lamps, five with flames and five gone out.

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Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines

lamp: color it brown

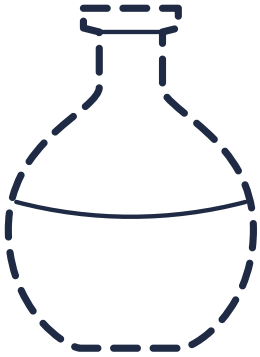


flame: yellow, middle orange



glue the tab on the back of the spout

oil vessel: tan



verse strip: glue it on the back of the lamp

Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.
Matthew 25:13 (KJV)

Color the lamp brown, the oil vessel tan, and the flame yellow with an orange middle. Cut out all four pieces. Glue the verse strip on the back of the lamp, and glue the flame's tab on the back of the spout so the flame stands up. Fold the flame down behind the lamp for "gone out" and up for "ready."

Paper flames only. Never light a real lamp or candle in class.

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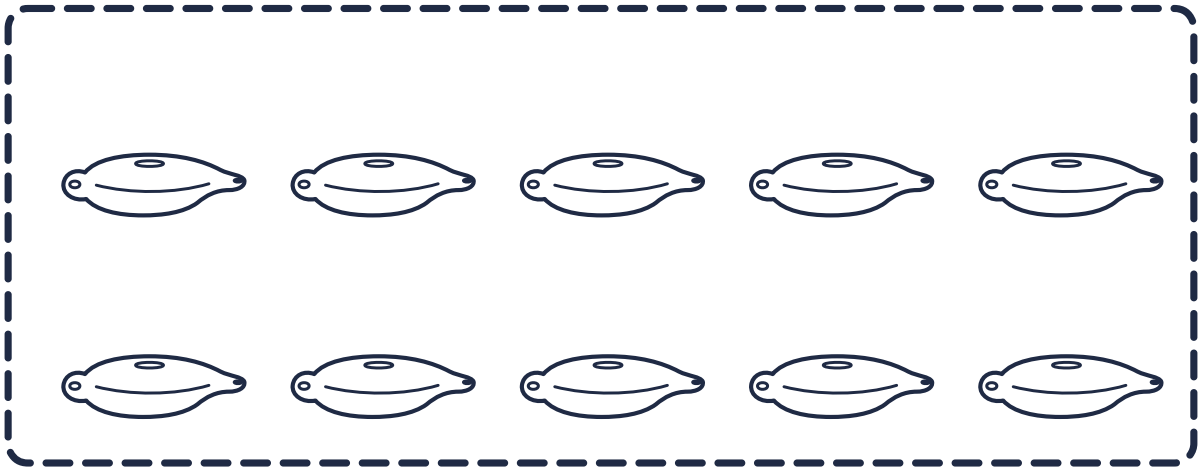
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Name: _____

✂ Harder level

Ten lamps (harder level)

ten lamps card: color all ten lamps brown, then cut out the card



five flames: color, cut out, and glue one above each spout in the top row



Top row: the five wise, who took oil (Matthew 25:4).

Bottom row: the five foolish, "our lamps are gone out" (25:8).

How to make the ten lamps card

1. Make the lamp and the oil vessel from page 2 first.
2. Color all ten lamps on the card brown. Color the five little flames yellow with an orange middle.
3. Cut out the card and the five flames on the dashed lines.
4. Count with a partner: ten took their lamps, five were wise and five were foolish (Matthew 25:1–2). Glue one flame above the spout of each lamp in the top row only.
5. On the back of the card, write one way you will be ready for Jesus this week. Jesus said, "Watch therefore" (25:13).

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/ten-virgins-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), crayons or markers in brown, tan, yellow and orange, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child and a pencil.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the lamp, the flame, the oil vessel and the verse strip ahead of time. Glue the verse strip on the back of the lamp and the flame's tab behind the spout.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's pieces and glue the verse and the flame on the lamp. Kids color the lamp, the flame and the oil vessel, then fold the flame up for "ready" and down for "gone out."
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, cut, glue the verse and the flame, and tell the story with the lamp and the oil vessel. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the lamp like the medium level. Then add the ten lamps card from page 3, with flames glued only on the five wise lamps in the top row. This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color the lamp brown and the oil vessel tan. Color the flame yellow with an orange middle.
2. **Cut:** cut out the lamp, the flame (with its tab), the oil vessel and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
3. **Verse:** turn the lamp over and glue the verse strip in the middle of the back. Read it together.
4. **Flame:** glue the flame's tab on the back of the spout, so the flame stands up above the tip of the spout.
5. **Fold:** fold the flame down behind the lamp on its dotted line, then fold it back up.
6. **Tell it:** the wise "took oil in their vessels with their lamps" (Matthew 25:4). Set the oil vessel by the lamp and fold the flame up: ready! Take the vessel away and fold the flame down: "our lamps are gone out" (25:8). Then say together, "Watch therefore" (25:13).

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Questions to ask while kids work

- How many took their lamps to meet the bridegroom? *(Ten, Matthew 25:1)*
- How many were wise, and how many were foolish? *(Five and five, 25:2)*
- Hold up the oil vessel. What did the wise take with their lamps? *(Oil in their vessels, 25:4)*
- What did they all do while the bridegroom tarried? *(They slumbered and slept, 25:5)*
- When was the cry made? *(At midnight, 25:6)*
- Fold the flame down. What did the foolish say? *("Our lamps are gone out," 25:8)*
- Who went in with the bridegroom? *(They that were ready, 25:10)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained: virgins** here means young women who were not married yet (with young children, say "ten young women"); a **bridegroom** is a man getting married; **vessels** are jars; **tarried** means took a long time; **slumbered** means got drowsy; **trimmed** means got the lamps ready to burn; **gone out** means stopped burning; the **marriage** is the wedding; **watch** means stay awake and be ready.
- **What the Bible says:** Matthew 25 says they took lamps and oil in their vessels (25:3–4). It doesn't describe the lamps or the vessels. The lamp and jar shapes and colors are only the craft's.
- **Paper flames only:** never light a real lamp, candle or match in class.
- **No one is drawn on the template, and never Jesus:** the craft shows only lamps, flames and an oil vessel. The bridegroom is a person in Jesus' story; he is not drawn.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut and glue everything ahead of time. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Let every child say, "Be ready!" as they fold the flame up.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free ten virgins lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/ten-virgins.

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