Preschool–Grade 6

The Ten Virgins

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: Jesus is coming again. I want to be ready!
Bible passage: Matthew 25. Read Matthew 25:1–13 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "Watch therefore" *Matthew 25:13 (KJV)*. **Watch** means be ready.
You need: a Bible, a yellow paper flame for each child, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child. Never use a real flame in class.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Matthew 25. Cut out the paper flames.

1. Opening game: Wake Up! (5 minutes)

Give each child a paper flame. Kids lie down and pretend to sleep. Say softly, "Shhh... sleeping..." Then call, "Wake up! Here he comes!" Everyone jumps up and holds their flame up high. Play it three times. Say: "You were ready! Today we will hear a story Jesus told about being ready."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Matthew 25. Say: "Jesus told this story. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Jesus told a story about ten young women (Matthew 25:1). *(Hold up ten fingers.)*
They took their lamps to meet the bridegroom (25:1). *(Hold up your paper flame.)*
Five were wise. They took oil for their lamps (25:2, 25:4). *(Hold up five fingers and nod yes.)*
Five were foolish. They took no oil (25:2–3). *(Hold up five fingers and shake your head no.)*
The bridegroom was slow. Everyone fell asleep (25:5). *(Lay your head on your hands.)*
At midnight someone called, "The bridegroom cometh!" (25:6) *(Cup your hands by your mouth.)*
Everyone got up (25:7). *(Jump up!)*
The foolish lamps went out. No oil! (25:8) *(Hide your flame behind your back.)*
Say it with me: "Be ready!"
The ready ones went in with the bridegroom (25:10). *(Walk in place.)*
Then the door was shut (25:10). *(Clap once.)*
Jesus said, "Watch" (25:13). *(Point to your eyes.)*
Say it with me: "Jesus is coming again!"

3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. How many young women had lamps? *(Ten, Matthew 25:1)*
2. Who took oil for their lamps? *(The five wise ones, 25:4)*
3. Who went in with the bridegroom? *(The ones who were ready, 25:10)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus said, 'Watch therefore.' That means, 'So be ready!'" Teach the motion: point to your eyes for "Watch," then hold your paper flame up high. Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Matthew 25:13" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: My Lamp (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a lamp, and then color a big yellow flame on top. While they color, ask: "Who took oil? Who is coming again?" Kids who finish early can play Wake Up! again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, Jesus, for coming again.
Help me be ready for You. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep it happy and let every child jump up with their flame. Use paper flames only, never a real flame. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child asks about the shut door: say, "Jesus told this story so we would get ready. He loves us and wants all of us to be ready for Him."

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