Preschool–Grade 6

The Ten Virgins

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: Jesus is coming again, so I want to be ready for Him.
Bible passage: Matthew 25:1–13. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." *Matthew 25:13 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible, a yellow paper flame for each child, paper, 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 25:1. Cut out the paper flames.

1. Opening game: Midnight Call (5 minutes)

Give each child a paper flame. Everyone lies down or puts their head on the table and "sleeps." Walk around quietly. When you call out, "The bridegroom is coming!" everyone jumps up and holds their flame high. Play it twice. The second time, wait a long, long time before you call. Ask: *Was it hard to wait? Were you ready when I called?* Say: "Jesus told a story about ten young women who waited a long time. Some were ready, and some were not."

2. Bible story: Ready for the Bridegroom (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Matthew 25, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Say: "Jesus told a **parable**, a story to teach us something." Tell it in your own words:

Ten young women took their lamps and went out to meet the **bridegroom**. A bridegroom is a man who is getting married (Matthew 25:1). Five of them were wise, and five were foolish (25:2). Their lamps burned oil. The foolish ones took their lamps, but they took no oil with them (25:3). The wise ones took oil in their **vessels**, or jars, with their lamps (25:4).

The bridegroom took a long time to come, and all ten got sleepy and fell asleep (25:5). Then at midnight, someone shouted, "Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him" (25:6)! That means, "Look, the bridegroom is coming! Go out to meet him!"

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The story continues: All ten young women got up and **trimmed** their lamps, which means they got them ready to burn (25:7). The foolish ones said to the wise, "Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out" (25:8). The wise ones said no, there might not be enough for everyone. They told them to go to the people who sell oil and buy some for themselves (25:9).

While the foolish ones went to buy oil, the bridegroom came! The ones who were ready went in with him to the **marriage**, the wedding, and the door was shut (25:10). Later the other young women came and said, "Lord, Lord, open to us." But he answered, "I know you not" (25:11–12).

Read Matthew 25:13 from your Bible: "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." Say: "**Son of man** is what Jesus called Himself. Jesus is coming back again, and nobody knows what day. So we want to be ready all the time!"

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. How many young women took their lamps? *(Ten, Matthew 25:1)*
2. How many were wise? *(Five, 25:2)*
3. What did the foolish ones forget? *(Oil, 25:3)*
4. When did the shout come? *(At midnight, 25:6)*
5. Who went in to the marriage? *(The ones who were ready, 25:10)*

4. Memory verse: Pass the Flame (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **watch** means stay awake and be ready, **therefore** means so, **ye** means you, **wherein** means when, and **cometh** means comes. Say the verse together twice in these parts: *Watch therefore, / for ye know neither the day / nor the hour / wherein the Son of man cometh. / Matthew 25:13.* Then sit in a circle and pass one paper flame. Whoever holds it says the next part.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "The wise young women were ready when the bridegroom came. Jesus wants us to be ready for Him. God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (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.
This week: live ready for Jesus: pray every day, read or listen to a Bible story, and obey the first time.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **ten virgins word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/ten-virgins-word-search), crossword, maze or worksheet, the ten virgins craft (vbshq.com/crafts/ten-virgins-craft), or **My Ready Lamp:** each child draws a lamp with a big yellow flame. Around it, they draw one way to be ready for Jesus: praying, reading the Bible, singing to God, obeying. Let a few kids show their lamps.

7. Prayer

"Dear Jesus, thank You that You are coming again. Help us be ready for You every day, like the wise young women. Thank You for loving us and making a way for us to be saved. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child is worried about the shut door: answer gently. Jesus told this story so we would get ready, not to scare us. The Bible says the Lord is "not willing that any should perish" (2 Peter 3:9). He wants every one of us to be ready, and He shows us how.

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