



KINGDOMCOME

parables of the kingdom

Next Sunday Evelyn Lo will be preaching on the parable of the ten virgins (Matthew 25:1-13), as a part of our series on Jesus' parables of the Kingdom of God. Throughout this series we will be studying the parables in lifegroup ahead of time before hearing sermons on them on Sundays.

FAMILY TIME

Take some time to share prayer requests and praise reports with each other and encourage folks to keep praying for each other's prayer requests throughout the week and to believe that these will become future praise reports.

BIBLE STUDY

See attached for a printout you can provide to your lifegroup members and for a basic guide on facilitating Bible studies.

Matthew 25:1-13 – The Parable of the Ten Virgins

¹ "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. ⁵ The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. ⁶ "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' ⁷ "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ 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. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰ "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. 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.' ¹³ "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What was the difference between the foolish and wise virgins?
- Why didn't the wise virgins share their oil with the foolish ones?
- Why would the bridegroom say he doesn't know the foolish virgins?
- What might "the day or the hour" refer to?
- Why is it so important to keep watch?
- What might it look like to keep watch?
- What should the foolish virgins have done?
- What do we learn about the kingdom of heaven?

APPLICATION

What would it look like for me to keep watch?

What things are hindering me from being able to keep watch?

SMALL GROUP

Break up into groups of 3-4 to share and pray with each other about keeping watch.

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FACILITATING INDUCTIVE/DISCUSSION BASED BIBLE STUDIES

STEP 1: OBSERVATION (about 10-15 minutes)

- Before you begin, pray to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the truths of the passage and to speak to each person, including yourself!
- Start by giving everyone a printout of the passage and giving them a few minutes to read through the passage on their own. It would be helpful to provide pens and markers for people to make notes or write down questions.
- Then gather the group together and give people an opportunity to share their observations. The purpose here is to identify what's going on in the text and to make sure we're all on the same page since people might notice or miss things others didn't.
- You could ask people to answer the basic investigative questions who (is speaking, are the main characters, is being spoken to), what (is happening, is the cultural context of the passage, is the scene), where (is the passage taking place), when (did the events take place), and how (did Jesus, people respond)?
- You could also pay attention to key words and phrases.

STEP 2: QUESTIONS AND INTERPRETATION (about 30-45 minutes)

- After giving people an opportunity to fill out the details of the passage during observation time, move into a time of questions. Since we want people to engage with the text for themselves and to see who Jesus is for themselves, we want to allow their questions to guide the study.
- You could have people ask all their questions up front and then go through them together afterwards. This way you can start with the questions from the beginning of the passage and move towards the end. This is in case you come across a later question that can't be answered until an earlier one is.
- You will want to write down people's questions as they ask them so you can refer back to them later.
- As you go through the questions, your goal is to get the group to try and answer the question together. Don't worry about having all the answers! Your primary task is to facilitate discussion and to help foster a space where people can think through questions for themselves and be open to how God might want to speak to them.
- If you're short on time, feel free to cut short discussion on some of the less important questions or even to skip them altogether. We want to make sure we focus the bulk of our energy on the more important parts of the passage.
- It would be helpful to read through the passage ahead of time in order to gain an idea of what the key questions or the crucial parts might be.
- Try to limit this section to under 45 minutes so people have time and energy to go into application and small groups.

STEP 3: APPLICATION AND SMALL GROUPS (about 15-30 minutes)

- This is the most crucial part of the whole study! Whereas the first two steps can feel more intellectual, here is where we actively look to see what the passage means for us personally.
- You could give people a few minutes to reflect on the passage and on the discussion and to ask God what he is saying to them personally.
- Beyond general revelations, we also want people to identify how they can practically respond to the passage and put things into action. Putting things into practice is what allows God to change our lives.
- Then break up into small groups of 3-4 so that people can share with each other how God spoke to them through the passage and how they want to respond and also to pray for each other to be able to believe and obey what they heard from God