

## Sunday, November 9, 2008 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### Preparation:

Read the Gospel [Matthew 25: 1-13](#) for the day over – Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump out at you. This week and the next two weeks are all from the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew, so you may want to read the whole chapter this week in preparation.

Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yeara/propera27.htm>

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/be-prepared.html>

[http://ecusa.anglican.org/50534\\_62453\\_ENG\\_HTM.htm](http://ecusa.anglican.org/50534_62453_ENG_HTM.htm) - scroll down the page to find the date for this Sunday

<http://children.calvarychapel.com/site/pdf/New/Curr228.pdf>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/pent25amles.htm>

<http://msssbible.com/newtestament/bridesmaids.htm>

### Gathering:

Materials needed:

Small table or end of one table

White candle

Bible & Bookmark

Green cloth (optional)

Newsprint and markers

Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. If you have the green cloth put it down and place the candle on it and put the Bible near the candle (you may want to let the children help with this). Write the prayer up on the newsprint so that everyone can see it. Light the candle.

Pray the following prayer together:

**Loving God be with us today,**

**Loving Jesus be with us today,**

**Loving Spirit be with us today,**

**Amen.**

Blow out all the candles. On the newsprint print the following **Be Prepared**. Ask a reader to let everyone else know what the words are. Ask the children what situations they know that they need to be prepared for. (*Some possible responses: for a party, in case of an emergency or for the arrival of company.*) Print their responses up on the newsprint. Ask the children how they prepare for the different situations that they have named. Print their responses up on the newsprint. Suggest to the children that they think about the ways they have identified as they listen to the story Jesus tells about being prepared for the coming of the kingdom.

## Story Time:

*Materials:* craft sticks or small paper cups, fine line markers

*Instructions:* Take ten craft sticks or ten small paper cups and draw women's faces on them to use as the bridesmaid puppets to help tell the story. Take one other craft stick or small paper cup and draw a man's face on it to use as the bridegroom puppet. For those who would like other options on puppet characters check out this website: <http://www.msscrafter.com/crafts/characters.htm>

Jesus was teaching the people. He spent a lot of time teaching them about God and about God's kingdom. One day as Jesus was teaching, he decided to tell them a story. Jesus said; "The kingdom of God will be like this:

There were once ten bridesmaids. *(Bring out the ten puppets – ask the children to help hold them.)* They took their lamps to go and meet the bridegroom. *(Have the puppets move around.)*

Five of the bridesmaids were foolish. *(Put five of the puppets on one side.)*

Five the bridesmaids were wise. *(Put five of the puppets on the other side.)*

The bridesmaids all brought their lamps with them. They brought their lamps so that they could light the way for the bridegroom. The foolish bridesmaids *(hold up the five foolish puppets)* only brought their lamps with them. They did not bring any extra oil. The wise bridesmaids brought their lamps with them, they also brought extra oil with them *(hold up the five wise puppets)*.

The bridesmaids had to wait and wait. The bridegroom was delayed. The bridesmaids began to get very sleepy. *(Have the children get to pretend the puppets are getting sleepy.)* Some of them even went to sleep. Finally when it was very dark and very late one them looked down the road. *(Hold up one of the puppets.)* She said, "Look here comes the bridegroom. We must get up and get ready to meet him."

The bridesmaids all got up. They trimmed their lamps to make them burn brighter. The foolish bridesmaids realized that they had run out of oil in their lamps. *(Get the foolish puppets to line up and speak to the wise puppets.)* They said to the wise bridesmaids, "Give us some of your oil for our lamps. Our lamps are running out of oil and are going to go out soon."

The wise bridesmaids *(have the wise puppets speak to the foolish puppets)* all said, "No! We cannot give you any of our oil. There is not enough oil for everyone to share. You had better go to the dealers and get some more oil."

The foolish bridesmaids *(take the foolish puppets out of the story area)* went to get some oil from the dealers. After they had left the bridegroom *(bring in the bridegroom puppet)* arrived. The wise bridesmaids *(have the bridegroom puppet and the wise puppets go off together)* who were ready went with him into the wedding party. The door was shut on the party after they all went in.

Sometime later the foolish bridesmaids *(bring back the foolish puppets)* came back. They banged on the door to the wedding party. They said, "Lord, lord open the door and let us come in."

The bridegroom (*have the bridegroom puppet speak to the foolish puppets*) said to them, "I do not know you. Go away now." (*Take away the foolish puppets.*)

Jesus looked at the people listening to the story. He said to them, "Keep awake. Be prepared. You do not know the time or the day when God's kingdom will come to the earth."

**Response:**

**Idea #1: Oil Lamp Picture**

*The children can share their ideas on being prepared for God's kingdom with each other and others through the use of this picture.*

*Materials needed:* oil lamp picture at end of lesson, construction paper, glue sticks, markers

*Instructions:* Make copies of the oil lamp picture so that each child has one. Give each child a copy of the picture and a piece of construction paper. Explain to the children that the oil lamp in the picture is much like the ones that the bridesmaids in Jesus' story would have used. Invite them to think about the ways that they need to be prepared for God's kingdom. You may want to write their ideas up on a piece of newsprint. Invite the children to write the words about being prepared into the middle of the oil lamp with the markers. When they are done have the children glue their pictures onto the construction paper. At the top of the construction paper have them print **Be prepared just like the wise bridesmaids.**

**Idea #2: Candle Holder**

*Being prepared is a way to show off our light into the world. The children can make these candle holders to help them remember to be prepared for the coming of God's kingdom.*

*Materials needed:* votive candles, small glass jars, white glue, glitter, small bowls, and paintbrushes

*Instructions:* Pour glitter into small bowls. Give each child a small jar. Have them put some white glue on the outside of the jar. Use the paintbrushes to spread the glue all around the jar. Show the children how to roll their jars in the glitter in the bowls. Make sure that they shake off the excess glitter over the bowls. Once they are done help them to put a candle inside the jar. Remind the children the candle should only be lit with the supervision of an adult.

**Idea #3: Bridesmaid and Bridegroom Pipe Cleaner Puppets**

*A fun way for younger children to share this story with others is for them to make puppets that are like the ones used in the story.*

*Materials needed:* pipe cleaners, small beads, material scraps, yarn, glue, scissors, and elastic bands

*Instructions:* Cut some of the pipe cleaners in half. Fold the pipe cleaner in half, place a small bead on the top to form the head. Take one of the half length pipe cleaners and place it around the middle and twist once and then fold up the ends to form the arms. Pull the bottom two apart to form the legs. Cut yarn into different lengths and glue onto the bead to form hair. Using the fabric scraps and elastic bands make clothes for the puppets. Let the children make as many as they can before the end of the lesson. As they are making the puppets have them retell the story to you so that they can share it with their families. They should each have at least one bridesmaid and a bridegroom puppet to be able to tell the story.

**Closing:**

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candle. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

**Thank you God for our time together,**

**Thank you Jesus for being our friend,**

**Thank you Spirit for showing us the way,**

**Amen.**

Oil Lamp Picture

