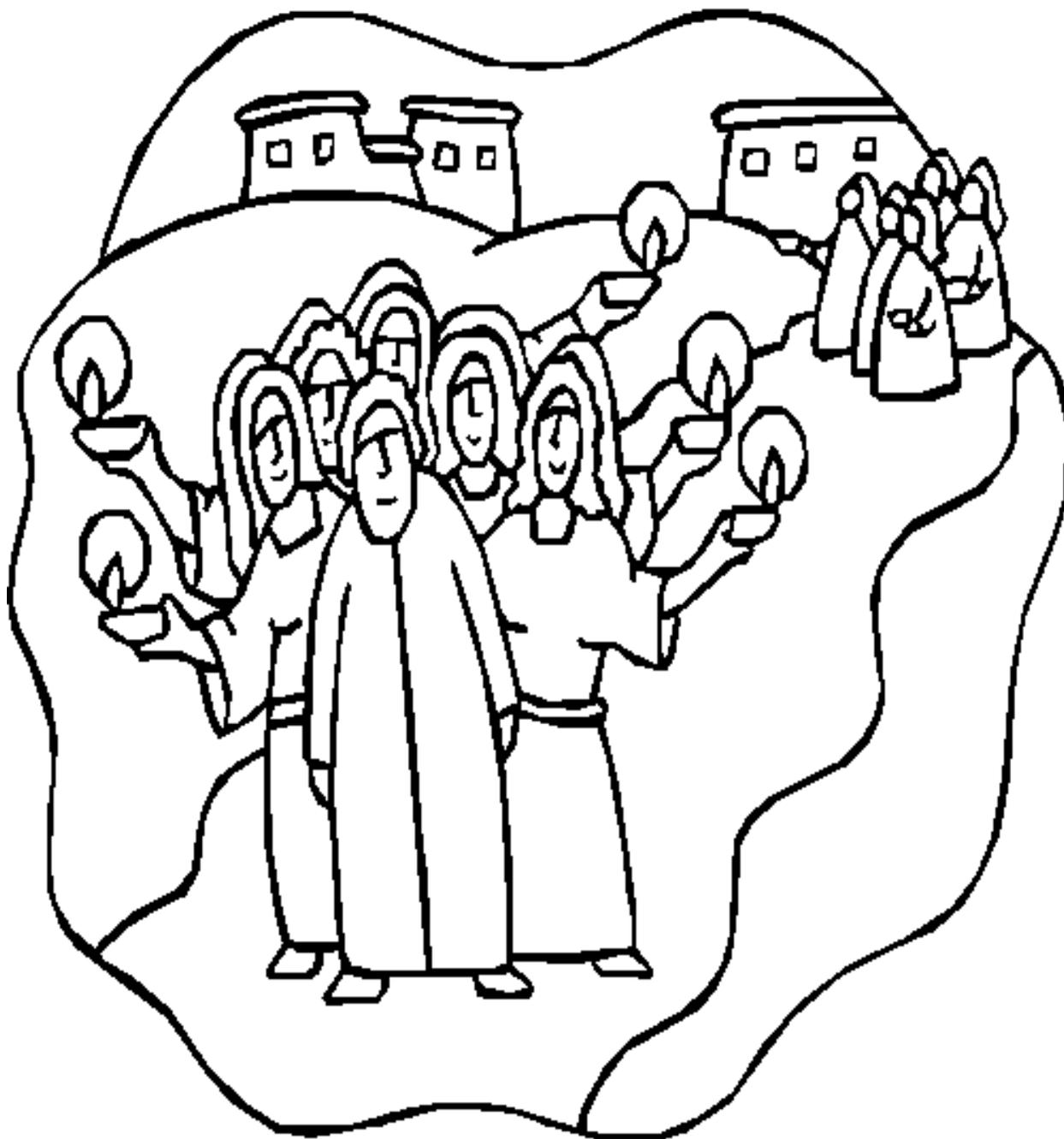


The Parable of the Ten Virgins

Matthew 25:1-13



The Story

While Jesus was on the Mount of Olives with His disciples, He told the disciples a story about Heaven. The kingdom of heaven is like ten young women, called virgins. They are called virgins because they are not married yet. These ten young women took their lamps and went to meet a bridegroom (the man who was getting married)

Five of the virgins were wise (smart). The other five virgins were foolish (not smart). Those who were foolish did not take any oil for their lamps. The virgins that were wise did take oil for their lamps.

While the virgins were waiting for the bridegroom to come, they fell asleep. At midnight someone called out: "The bridegroom is coming. Go out to meet him."

All of the virgins got up and lighted their lamps (because it was dark out). The virgins who were foolish said to the wise virgins, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps have burned out."

But the wise virgins answered saying, "No, we cannot give you oil. If we do, there will not be enough for us. Go, buy yourselves some oil."

So, the foolish virgins went to buy themselves some oil. While they were gone the bridegroom came and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

Now no one else was welcome into the wedding. The foolish virgins arrived after the door was shut.

They knocked and called out, "Lord, Lord, open to us!" But the bridegroom would not let them in - they had come too late.

Jesus told this story to the disciples to teach them that they must always be ready for Christ's second coming. We too need to be ready when Jesus comes again to take us to heaven.

"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."

Jesus told a parable or story explaining Judgment Day.

Activity One - Have the children re-enact the story - Pick a boy to be the bridegroom and the others can be the ten virgins. Let the kids have fun with it, just as long as they are portraying what the Bible says.

Activity Two -Follow the directions to make a picture to help with the memory passage.

Matthew 24:42

<p>“Watch therefore, <i>* draw a pair of eyes or glasses to represent watching</i></p>	<p>for you do not know what hour <i>* draw a clock</i></p>	<p>your Lord is coming.” <i>*draw Jesus coming on the last day</i></p>
---	---	---

When we die our soul will go to heaven to be with Jesus.

Passage

Matthew 24:44 - Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Hymn - TLH #609 v. 1

"Wake, awake, for night is flying,"
The watchmen on the heights are crying;
"Awake, Jerusalem, arise!"
Midnight hears the welcome voices
And at the thrilling cry rejoices:
"Oh, where are ye, ye virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes, awake!
Your lamps with gladness take! Hallelujah!
With bridal care yourselves prepare
To meet the Bridegroom, who is near."

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,
Thank You for sending Jesus to live a perfect life and to die for our sins on the cross.
Thank You also for sending the Holy Spirit into our hearts to give us faith. Please keep that lamp of faith full of oil from Your Word so that we are ready to meet You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.