



# On the Alert

TEXT: Matthew 25:1-13

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURE: Revelation 16:15

KEY VERSE: Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not. — Luke 12:40

## RESPONSES

1. All had responded to the occasion, taking their lamps and going forth to wait for the bridegroom. This parable signifies the Rapture of the Church. Bring out in discussion that many people talk about Jesus' second coming and seem to anticipate it, but do not make the necessary preparation for that great event.

2. The foolish virgins knew the requirements of the occasion, that they must have a shining light in order to join the procession and go in to the marriage. Discuss with the class that none of the virgins knew when the bridegroom would come. The foolish virgins had failed to fill their vessels with oil to start with. This is why they were considered foolish.

3. They asked for oil from the wise virgins, but received the answer that the wise did not have enough oil for both. They were told to go to those who sold, and buy oil. They went to buy but when they returned, it was too late. Discuss with the students that it was not selfishness on the part of the wise to say they could not give of their oil, for the Spirit of God cannot be transferred from one person to another. The Spirit must come from God. Also consider that one never has more of the Spirit than he needs. Each individual needs all the Spirit that he can possibly secure in order to be ready for Jesus' coming.

4. The wise virgins knew the bridegroom was coming, they went forth to meet him, knowing and performing the requirements of entrance to the marriage. The point for discussion is, did not all the virgins know the requirements? They all certainly seemed to know, but the wise were the ones who were careful to fulfill every requirement for the occasion. They were virgins, which denotes purity and therefore eligibility. They knew there had to be light, so they took lamps to illuminate the way. See Psalm 119:105. They did not know how long the bridegroom would tarry, nor how long their lamps would have to burn, so they filled their vessels with oil along with the lamps. As the result of their conduct and attitude, the wise virgins were ready to go with the bridegroom into the marriage.

There are sins which are passive by nature, but are as destructive in their ultimate consequences as those willfully and deliberately committed. The sin of neglect is one of these. We can see from this parable that the consequences of such a sin are terrible to contemplate. Let us be as spiritually vigilant as the wise virgins were. They availed themselves of every privilege, every opportunity, and every experience that came their way.

- 1. What was commendable about the attitude of both the wise and foolish virgins?
- 2. In what ways, then, did the foolish virgins fail?
- 3. What admonition was given to the foolish virgins? How did they react to this advice?

## ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

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## SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

Why do you think Jesus told us the story of the ten virgins? Do you think this story has any effect on us? How or why?

What is an overcomer?

Why would you say that Jesus is really coming back to earth?

What are the basic requirements for being ready?

What can we do to keep our "lamps" from going out?

Verse 13 says, "Watch therefore . . ." How do we spiritually watch?

In the ANSWER story, what was the main point concerning the firemen and in what way was that story similar to the story of the ten virgins?

## THINGS TO DO

Bring an empty kerosene lamp to class, then fill it and light the wick. Discuss how the oil is used up as the wick is burned. Make the point that we must remain close to our supply of "oil" too.

Each of the letters in the word WATCH can help to remind us of some of the things we should be watchful of. "W" stands for the WORD. We should watch the Word of God by reading it daily.

"A" stands for AMUSEMENTS. We should watch our amusements and not be found in a place we would not want to be found when Jesus comes.

"T" stands for TALK. We should watch our talk, and not be guilty of using words we would not want to be using when Jesus comes, or talking about someone in slanderous ways.

"C" stands for COMPANIONS. We should watch our companionships and not be found with those we would not want to be with when Jesus comes.

"H" stands for HEART. We should watch our hearts to remain an overcomer.

Why should we watch so carefully? Because Jesus could come any day.

Material needed: A kitchen timer. Set it without telling your students when it will go off. Use this to illustrate that time is running out and Jesus may come at any time.

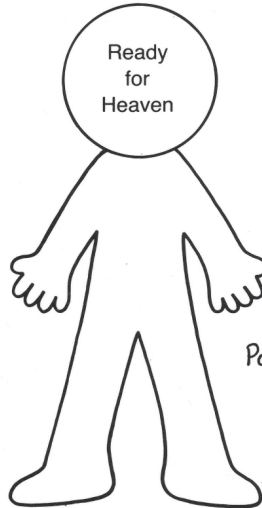
Read all the statements. Then number them in the story sequence.

- \_\_\_\_\_ They that were ready went in with him to the marriage.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.
- \_\_\_\_\_ They all slumbered and slept.
- \_\_\_\_\_ At midnight a cry was made, "Behold, the bridegroom cometh."
- \_\_\_\_\_ The door was shut.
- \_\_\_\_\_ While they went to buy, the bridegroom came.

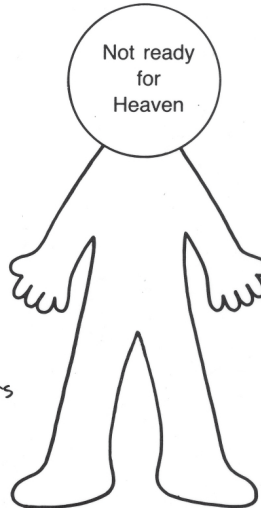
## Answers for ANSWER

### Ready or Not?

You can't always tell just by looking at people if they are ready for Heaven. The two figures below appear similar but one is ready and the other is not. List five things below each one that show why they are ready or not ready.



Ready  
for  
Heaven



Not ready  
for  
Heaven

Possible Answers

1. Prayed
2. Read Bible
3. Obedied
4. Was Kind
5. Told of Jesus

1. Disobeyed
2. Was unkind
3. Lied
4. Stole
5. Cheated