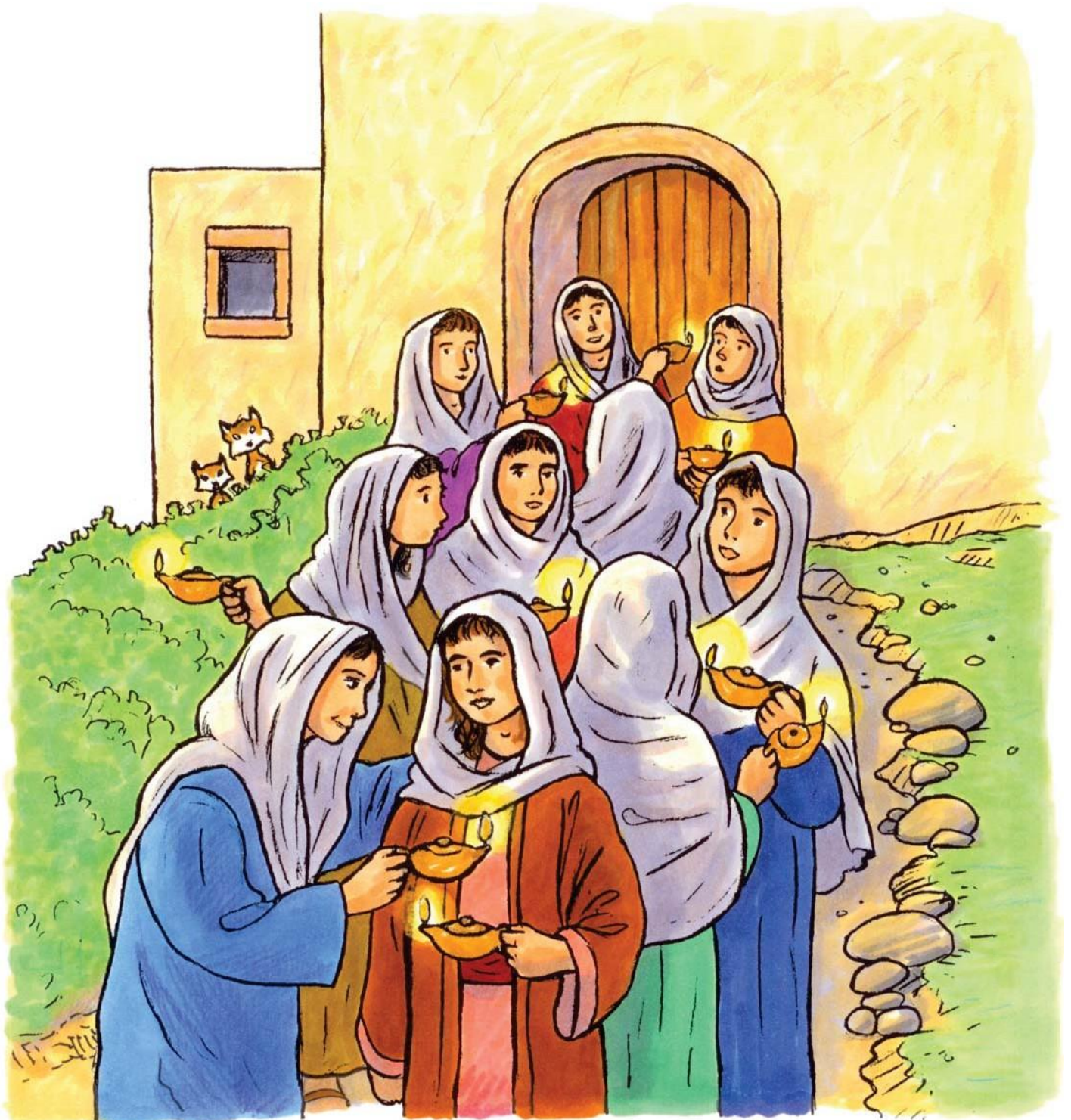


THE TEN MAIDENS

Matthew 25:1–13



Contents

Message	Today, we must make the effort to be ready for Jesus' return.
Learning Objectives	The children will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Five of the maidens were prepared to meet the bridegroom while the others were not.■ God's love is unlimited but the time of grace will end.
Bible Text	Matthew 25:1–13

The Ten Maidens



Jesus was talking to His disciples. He told them a parable about the kingdom of God and how best to prepare for it.

"The kingdom of heaven will be like ten maidens who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

Five of them were wise and five were foolish. The foolish maidens took their lamps but did not take any extra oil with them.

The wise maidens took their lamps and also took extra oil with them. The bridegroom was delayed and they all fell asleep.

At midnight the maidens were woken by a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom. Come and meet him!'

All the maidens got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise ones, 'Let us have some of your oil because our lamps are going out.'

The wise maidens answered, 'No, there is not enough oil for you and for us. Go to the shop and buy some for yourselves.'

So the five foolish maidens went off to buy some oil. While they were gone the bridegroom arrived. The five wise maidens who were ready went with him into the wedding, and the door was closed.

Later, the other maidens arrived too and cried, 'Lord, Lord, let us in!'

But he answered, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'

Suggestions for the Teacher

Lead-In

Show the picture to the children. Discuss with them what they see. Ask what she/he may feel...

Let some of the children play the story in a role-play. Instruct them before.

Provide disguise / fancy dress, candles, vessels....

Lesson Instructions

Begin telling the story...

Discuss with the children...

- What do you do when a teacher tells you there will be a test on a certain date? (You prepare)
- What do the ten maidens hear, when they fell asleep? ("The bridegroom is coming.")
- What do the foolish realize?
(They do not have enough oil and ask the wise maidens to give them some.)
- How do the wise maidens react? (They tell them to go and buy their own oil.)
- What happens to them?
(Only the wise maidens enter the wedding feast with the bridegroom.)
- What does the bridegroom say to the foolish ones? (I do not know you.)
- What does Jesus want to teach us with this parable?
(The wise ones have enough oil; that means they are well prepared.)

Have the children repeat...

- Five of the maidens were prepared to meet the bridegroom while the others were not.
- God's love is unlimited but the time of grace will end.

Real-Life Application (explain the following)

- How can we prepare ourselves for the return of Jesus?
(Pray that we may be ready, be in joyful expectation of the return of Jesus, keep the commandments, practise love, ...)

Repeat the Message
Today, we must make the effort to be ready for Jesus'
return.