

1. **Sing:** Children’s Songbook #78 “I’m Trying to Be like Jesus.”

2. **Read:** “1. Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.” (Matt. 25: 1–4).

3. **Watch:** chapter 7 from *The Animated New Testament Complete Learning System, The Kingdom of Heaven* DVD. (Video clip is also provided for viewing online.)

4. **What did Jesus want us to learn from the parable of the 10 maidens?** (Discuss ideas.)

Jesus is like the bridegroom and members of His Church are like the ten maidens. We, too know that He will come again, but we do not know when, “Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.” (Matt. 25:13.) If we are prepared, like the five wise maidens, we will be ready when He comes.

5. **How do we prepare for the Savior’s Second Coming?** (Discuss ideas.)

“Attendance at sacrament meetings adds oil to our lamps, drop by drop over the years. Fasting, family prayer, home teaching, control of bodily appetites, preaching the gospel, studying the scriptures—each act of dedication and obedience is a drop added to our store. Deeds of kindness, payment of offerings and tithes, chaste thoughts and actions, marriage in the covenant for eternity—these, too, contribute importantly to the oil with which we can at midnight refuel our exhausted lamps.” *Spencer W. Kimball, Faith Precedes the Miracle. Shadow Mountain Publishing.*

6. **Why wouldn’t the wise maidens share their oil with the foolish maidens?** (Discuss ideas.)

“The responsibility for having oil in our personal lamps is an individual requirement and opportunity. ... The wise were not unkind or selfish when they refused oil to the foolish in the moment of truth. The kind of oil needed by all of us to light up the darkness and illuminate the way is not shareable. The oil could have been purchased at the market in the parable, but in our lives it is accumulated by righteous living, a drop at a time.” *Marvin J. Ashton, Ensign, May 1974 © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*

7. **Why were the foolish maidens turned away after the door was shut?** (Discuss ideas.)

“It would be foolish to procrastinate the day of our repentance until the midnight hour or to leave this life without oil. Just as oil is not purchased at midnight, neither is righteousness developed in an instant. ... The fact that the five foolish virgins knocked, expecting to enter the marriage supper, indicates one of two things: (1) they thought they could prepare themselves after the Bridegroom came, or (2) knowing that they at first had not been prepared to enter, they were hoping for mercy. Either way, the door was shut.” *Lynn G. Robbins, Ensign, Jun 2007 © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*

8. **What blessings are in store for us if we are spiritually prepared?** (Discuss ideas. See D&C 76:62–63.)

If we prepare in faith, that God will stay with us through every trial until the day of His coming (see 1 Peter 1:3–5) we will receive future blessings that will not corrupt nor fade away. Till that time we also have the blessing of hope and confidence in His faithfulness (see Philippians 1:6) that he will finish the good work He’s begun in us. (He’s the author and finisher of our faith. (See Hebrews 12:2.) We will abide in His love and be filled with joy as we keep His commandments. (See John 15:10.)

9. **Quote:** “We all need to be like the wise virgins and be ready for when the Lord comes again, because we will forever regret being foolish and unprepared.” *Emilee Susannie Barber, New Era, Jan 1999 © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*