

# Parable: The Ten Maidens

## The Building Blocks of the Lesson

### Bible Reference



Matthew 25:1-13

### Memory Verse:

Matthew 25:6

### Objectives



Help participants understand . . .

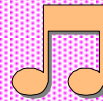
- \*Jesus will come again but we do not know when.
- \*Jesus tells us to be prepared for his return.

### Theological Themes



Hope, watchfulness, obedience, preparation, the Kingdom of Heaven, and the advent of Christ, Holy Communion as the foretaste of the feast to come \_\_\_\_ (your ideas, too) \_\_\_\_\_.

### Music



Give Me Oil in My Lamp (LifeSongs, #158)  
This Little Light of Mine (LifeSongs, #32 and #33)  
Light One Candle: Christ is Coming (LifeSongs, #3)  
Stay Awake, Be Ready (LifeSongs, #1)

They That Wait Upon the Lord, by Stuart Hamblen,  
Copyright 1953, renewed 1981 by Hamblen Music Co.  
Inc., PO Box 8118, Universal City, CA 91608  
(ASCAP)

Commonly known melodies:

Swingin' Singin' Saints – can be sung in a round or in unison. (Swing low, sweet chariot)  
This is the Day ( . . . that the Lord has made)

### Catechism Connection



\* Apostles' Creed, Article II

\* Lord's Prayer – "Thy Kingdom Come"

\* Holy Communion

### Additional Resources



It would be helpful to have a copy of Martin Luther's Small Catechism (available from Augsburg/Fortress Publishers). Also check your church and synod libraries to find copies of older hymnals and children's songbooks. These are treasure troves of "olden time" songs, many will remember from their youth.

## Context



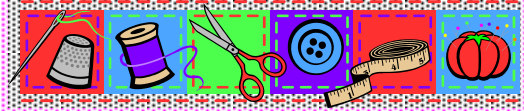
In ancient Palestine, it was customary for the groom to go to the home of the bride's parents in order to get his bride. Young girls and other guests would wait for the couple's return to the groom's parent's home before beginning the wedding banquet. Such is the scene for our parable.

The early Christian community anticipated the return of Jesus shortly after his ascension. The Gospel according to Matthew was probably written after 70 A.D., about 40 years after Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension. The early Christians by this time were eagerly awaiting his return, and may have begun to lose hope. This parable, along with others, encouraged the Matthean community to hold on, to maintain their vigilant watchfulness for the coming of Christ and not despair.

## ??? Discuss /Ask???

- \* Where were the ten maidens going?
- \* How were the ten girls alike? How were they different?
- \* What happened when the bridegroom arrived?
- \* What happened to the foolish girls? Were they allowed into the wedding party?
- \* What do you think is the point of this parable?
- \* Describe a wedding you have been to. Was it sad or happy? Why?
- \* What needs to be done to get ready for a wedding?
- \* What are things you prepare for? How do you prepare for them?
- \* What keeps us from being prepared sometimes? How can we be ready for Jesus' return? What are some things we can do everyday?
- \* Do we have a "wedding banquet" in worship? What kind of feast do we celebrate? Have you ever thought of worship as a party?

## Activity



### Stained-Glass Candleholder Activity in the ELCMA Sunday School Handbook

OR/AND

### Ten Maidens Word Find also in Activity in the ELCMA Sunday School Handbook

## Sending



Each evening this week, with your family, light a candle and say a prayer that God will help you to be faithful and watchful.

## Prayer



Lord Jesus,

We look forward to the day when you will come again. Help us to be ready when you come. AMEN.