

A Journey of the 10 Virgins

Matthew 25:1-13

Once Upon the Time Series

ICEBREAKER: Share with your group one of the most foolish thing you have even done as a child? What did you learn from that experience?

Aim of discussion: to help people to understand it is important to spend time with God. The key to wisdom is to cultivate intimacy with God.

Introduction:

- In Matthew 25, Jesus revealed Himself as the Bridegroom (Matt 25:1 – 13) and the church is His bride that is waiting for the return of Jesus in His second coming.
- In the Parable of the Ten Virgins, Jesus tells a story about a party of virgins awaiting the coming of the bridegroom.
- Each of them is carrying a lamp. However, only five of the virgins are wise and have brought oil for their lamps.

The oil of intimacy:

- The oil described in this parable is the oil of intimacy. This oil is not transferable. You must cultivate this yourself by spending time with God, letting the Holy Spirit touch our hearts in His presence. Revelation 3:18 – we can buy this from Jesus.
- The Bridegroom message is a call to intimacy with God by encountering His heart and walking in partnership with Him in a spirit of abandonment.
- The Spirit reveals to us the deep things of God's heart - His emotions and commitments - and empowers us to respond in wholehearted love.

- We need the oil of intimacy to:
 1. tenderizes our heart, enabling us to feel more of God's desire for us.
 2. enlarges our desire for Him by encountering His desire for us.
 3. illuminates our understanding with growing insight into God's beauty. We begin to see the beauty of God.
 4. imparts zeal to be obedient – for righteousness, which helps us to overcome various temptations.

QUESTION:

1. Take a moment and think about which function of the oil of intimacy you need the most. And why?
2. Share your experiences of how God helped you overcome difficulties when you spent time with him.
3. What's keeping you from a closer walk with God? Share two practical steps you will take to overcome this struggle.

Things you can try:

1. Find a way to spend some time outdoors this week. Take a walk to the mailbox, take your coffee break out back or roll your window down during your drive. In this moment, ask God to speak to you. It could be a simple word or a clear thought, a warm feeling of His nearness or even an intuitive feeling that He's there.
2. Put on some worship music and soak in God's presence. "Soak" is a fun term we like to use for finding a comfortable place to sit or lay down. Allow the music and words to speak to you. It's not a time where you are worshiping or expressing yourself to God, but rather allowing Him to speak to you and minister to your spirit.
3. Bridegroom fast. A Bridegroom fast is a monthly, three-day fasting focused on and sustained by experiencing the love of Jesus as the

Bridegroom God (Mt. 9:15). This fast is a worldwide concert of prayer when believers unite to seek the Lord's face—at the same time, with the same burdens, and in the same Spirit. It is held the first Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of every month.