



Date: _____
Series: Jesus is Our King
Winter Year 2, Lesson 30

Get Ready (Jesus Will Come Again)

Take Home Point: *Jesus will come again—we need to be ready. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Matthew 25:1-13 Jesus' parable about ten bridesmaids.

Key Verse: Luke 12:40, "Be ready, because the Son of Man will return when you least expect him."

We will help kids know:

- The parable of the ten bridesmaids, which Jesus used to teach us to be ready for his coming.
- How to be ready for Jesus' return by keeping ourselves filled with Jesus and following him as Lord.




We will help kids feel:

- Excited at the thought of the return of Jesus.
- Urgent in living for him now so that more people might know Jesus as their Savior when he does return.

We will help kids do:

- Identify ways in which they can fill their "lamp" to be ready for Jesus' return.
- See their daily activities as opportunities for Jesus to use as settings for his kingdom to reach others.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Kids think about taking a trip and what items they want to take along with them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no materials needed
Large Group 	4 7-9 10-13 14	Overview Puppet Presentation: “Countdown to Christmas Blast Off: Get Ready” –Gerdy is not ready for blast off because she stepped outside the space ship to get some Starburst candy. Dramatic Reading: “Foolish and Wise Bridesmaids” –The Bible event from Matthew 25:1-13, Jesus’ parable about ten bridesmaids, is presented. Puppet Conclusion: “Countdown to Christmas Blast Off: Get Ready”—Gerdy and Gordy learn from Jesus’ parable that we need to be spiritually ready for Jesus’ second coming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gordy Gerdy in her spacesuit simulated cockpit setting for Gerdy Command Central setting Starburst candies taped to Gerdy’s hand flashlight two lamps with adjustable wicks two period bridesmaid costumes
Small Group Application 	4-6	Kids use a candle and melt crayons to make a design of faith as they identify ways in which they can fill their “lamp” to be ready for Jesus’ return.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> candles construction paper to place underneath the candles matches clothespins old crayons with paper removed so that they can be melted

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

The warm-up activity is designed to help the kids think about getting ready for a trip. It will also help the kids get to know one another better as they find out each other's favorite toys or possessions. All of this helps set up today's theme, which calls us to get ready for the coming of Jesus. At that time, our toys or possessions will mean very little. Rather, what will matter is our faith in Jesus and how we have followed him so that others will be taking the final trip with us.

Play a memory game with the kids. Explain that they will go on a trip and can take one of their favorite things with them. They will load everything in an imaginary suitcase which can be as big as the room, so don't worry about how big the things are.

Have everyone sit in a circle and when it is their turn, they add their favorite thing to the suitcase. But, they also have to remember to add what the previous kids wanted to take on the trip. Say:

This is the way the game goes. I will start. "I am going on a trip and I am putting in my suitcase a soccer ball." The next person will say, "I am going on a trip and I am putting in my suitcase a Gameboy and a soccer ball." The third person would start the sentence the same way. "I am going on a trip and I am putting in my suitcase. . . ." That person adds what he or she would take along, but must also remember the other items already in the suitcase. Let's see how many items we can remember as we go around the circle and get ready for the trip.

Wrap up the discussion with:

Today we will talk about getting ready for another trip. That trip is when Jesus comes back to take us to live with him in heaven. It is called the second coming. How many of you think that you will be alive when Jesus comes back again? When do you think he will come back again? Jesus tells us to be ready. He wants us to expect his return in our lifetime. What will we put in our lives (not just suitcases) that will help us get ready for Jesus' coming?

Today we will learn that, **Jesus will come again—we need to be ready.*

Large Group: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Overview

Puppet Presentation: “Countdown to Christmas Blast Off: Get Ready” –Gerdy is not ready for blast off because she stepped outside the space ship to get some Starburst candy.

Dramatic Reading: “Foolish and Wise Bridesmaids” – The Bible event from Matthew 25:1-13, Jesus’ parable about ten bridesmaids, is presented.

Puppet Conclusion: “Countdown to Christmas Blast Off: Get Ready”—Gerdy and Gordy learn from Jesus’ parable that we need to be spiritually ready for Jesus’ second coming.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Matthew 25:1-13 in their Bibles.

What were the five foolish bridesmaids missing in Jesus’ parable?
(Matthew 25:8. They did not have enough oil.)

What did they have to go and do since they did not have enough oil?
(Matthew 25:10-12. They went to buy oil.)

What did they miss? *(The door was locked and they missed the wedding.)*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

How do you think the foolish bridesmaids felt when the door was locked? Why?

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Do you think Jesus will come back in your own lifetime? (Accept any answer.)

What did Jesus say in his word about when he will return? (Matthew 25:13. *We don't know the day or the hour, but we are to be ready.*)

What do you think it will be like when he does come back? (Some Bible verses to check here are Acts 1:11 and Matthew 24:29-31.)

KEY QUESTION:

If you want to be ready for Jesus' return, with what will you fill your lamp? (We all need to be ready by filling our lamps with faith. This includes faith in Jesus as our Savior and faith that is seen in acts of love in the name of Jesus. Help the children to not confuse the fact that by just doing good works they are earning heaven. Rather, because Jesus has given them heaven and they receive it by faith, they can do good works to show love for him. It is a way that they are staying ready for his return.)

1 Peter 2:12 says it this way, "Live decent lives among unbelievers. Then, although they ridicule you as if you were doing wrong while they are watching you do good things, they will praise God on the day he comes to help you."

Again 1 Peter 3:15 says, "But dedicate your lives to Christ as Lord. Always be ready to defend your confidence in God when anyone asks you to explain it."

Application Activity:

Each group will need a small, lit candle with construction paper underneath it, a clothespin, and several different colored crayons with the paper removed. As the following questions are discussed and the activity is completed, help the kids see that in our daily activities we can do many things that help others come to know Jesus.

The following activity is not so much a craft project as it is a simple visual illustration. It also can become a tool for helping discussion. The crayons will be melted in the candles by using the clothespins to hold them. The construction paper underneath the candles will be the recipient of various designs of crayon wax.

Show kids the candle and say:

The candle is like our lives. It is also like the lamps that the bridesmaids had. Wise bridesmaids had oil for the lamps so they would be ready for the groom. We, too, want to be ready for the groom who is Jesus. We put into our lamp the oil of faith. This means trusting Jesus as our Savior and following him as our Lord.

These crayons remind us of the different acts of faith that we can do to make sure we are ready for Jesus' coming.

Each one of us will talk about something we can do as an act of faith, which keeps our lamp full and ready for Jesus. As you tell about your act of faith, you can use the clothespin to hold a crayon in the flame of the fire and let it melt a bit into the candle. Some of the wax might even overflow onto the paper, and that is okay. It will make a beautiful design of faith, and it is a picture of how our lives overflow with Jesus' presence so others might know him as well.

Each of us needs to think of an act of faith and describe it as we melt a bit of our crayon. I will begin. One act of faith that is important is coming to God, admitting my sin, and calling upon Jesus as my Savior so that I can be sure of his forgiveness. What are some other acts of faith?

During this time, encourage the kids to think of everyday events that they do such as playing soccer, going to music lessons, doing homework, relationships with family, etc. Each of these events can be used in a way that helps one get ready for Jesus' return while preparing for the celebration of his birth. These things can be done in ways that bring glory to Jesus and help others come to know him. Have kids think of ways they can show glory to God while doing an activity stated above. Then say:

Our key verse from Luke 12:40 says, *"Be ready, because the Son of Man will return when you least expect him."* Today we learned that **Jesus will come again—we need to be ready.*

Closing Prayer:

Gather kids for prayer around the candle. Darken the room, hold hands, and have each person pray about a way they can show readiness for Jesus' return while preparing for the celebration of his birth. Thank God for giving us Jesus at his first coming and for all that we need to be ready for his second coming.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Countdown To Christmas Blast Off: Get Ready (Stage Three) Puppet Presentation

Gerdy will appear outside the cockpit still wearing her aluminum foil spacesuit from last week. She will need a package of Starburst candies taped to her hand.

Commander King: Boys and girls, welcome to Command Central. I am Commander King along with my assistant, Gordy.

Gordy: You can just call me Command and call him Central. Together, we are Command Central, and apart . . . well, I'm just in command.

Commander King: If you want to pretend that you are in command that's okay. Why don't you tell the kids what our mission is about today.

Gordy: No. I want you to tell them.

Commander King: Okay, I will.

Gordy: See, I told you I was in command.

Commander King: I'm just going to tell them about our mission.

Gordy: Of course you are. I told you to do that!

Commander King: Oh, Gordy. We are on our third stage of the Countdown to the Christmas Blast Off. Two weeks ago our message was "Get Real." Last week it was "Get Right." This week it is "Get Ready."

Gordy: Get ready for what?

Commander King: Get ready to meet God face to face.

Gordy: To do that let's check on the progress of my favorite sister, Astronaut Gerdy, in the space shuttle, Nativity 1.

Commander King: That's a great idea, Gordy. Whatever you say.

Gordy: Precisely! Whatever I say. He agrees I'm in command here at Command Central. Gerdy, are you out there? Come in.

Gerdy appears.

Gerdy: *Hi, Commander King! Hi, brother Gordy! What do you guys want?*

Gordy: What do we want? We are just checking up on you.

Commander King: **Hey, wait a minute, Gerdy. You are not even in the space shuttle. We are on the countdown right now and it could blast off any second.**

Gerdy: *Well, that's okay. I have something important to do.*

Gordy: Something important? Something so important that you would get out of the space shuttle?

Commander King: Yeah. What could be that important?

Gerdy: *I was hungry! And they don't have candy machines in space. I had to go get a package of Starbursts.*

Commander King: That's why you left?

Gordy: I understand, Gerdy. That is important.

Commander King: What? Not you, too, Gordy. How could that be important enough to leave the space shuttle?

Gerdy: *But I was hungry!*

Gordy: And there were Starbursts!

Commander King: But if you missed your flight, you wouldn't even get to the stars.

Gerdy: *But I wouldn't be hungry!*

Commander King: For only about fifteen minutes. Then you would be hungry again.

Gordy: She would have missed her Starbursts! I like Starbursts, too.

Commander King: Yes, but she could be a star who bursts and crashes because she's not even inside the space shuttle when it launches.

Gerdy: *Oh, I didn't think of that.*

Gordy: I didn't either.

Commander King: Well, you're not alone. Many people today are not ready for one of the most important blast offs they will ever be a part of.

Gerdy: *Other people are blasting off?*

Commander King: Yes. The Bible says that Jesus will come back on the last day, and we will all blast off to be with him. That is, unless we are not ready.

Gerdy: *You mean, like we are getting Starbursts?*

Commander King: Well, there's nothing wrong with Starbursts. But if we are not spiritually ready by trusting in Jesus as our Savior and following him in obedience, then we could be left behind.

Gerdy: *For real?*

Commander King: For real.

Gordy: Yeah, our stars would really burst then.

Gerdy: *Wow! I need to get back into the space shuttle and get ready for blast off! I don't want to miss it. How soon is it going to be anyway?*

Commander King: Well, I can't say for sure. I just know that it is soon. Jesus said so when he told us a story about getting ready for a wedding. Why don't you watch it? It might help you be ready for blastoff.

Gordy: That's a big 10-4, okie dokey and start the show.

Foolish and Wise Bridesmaids

Dramatic Reading

This dramatic reading involves three characters – the narrator, a wise bridesmaid, and a foolish bridesmaid. It is best if all lines, except scripture, are memorized or ad-libbed as opposed to being read. Therefore, it is divided into three scenes with each line having an introductory word that encapsulates the primary idea. This should aid in memorizing the idea, if not the very words of the dialogue. The light cues are very important for the overall effectiveness of this reading. While the narrator will use a flashlight to begin the reading, the bridesmaids will use lamps with adjustable wicks. That way one lamp can be extinguished during the dialogue. The bridesmaids should be dressed in period costumes, as well. This will help the story come to life even more.

Introduction

Narrator: Today, when we read from God's Word, Jesus will tell us a story about readiness. This story has an important truth behind it. I hope that you will be able to discover it. To help you understand the story, I would like to tell you about weddings in Jesus' day because this story is about a wedding.

Great Occasion

Weddings were great occasions in Jesus' day. When two people became married, they would have their friends, and sometimes the entire village, come and join them in a wonderful celebration and feast. Instead of leaving on a honeymoon, they invited everyone to their home to enjoy fun and feasting.

Street Procession

Oftentimes, they did not set an exact time for the marriage to take place. Instead, they would have a bit of a surprise. The bride and her bridesmaids would be together and would wait for the groom, or the husband-to-be, to come and get them. Then they would make a parade through the streets, taking the longest route possible to their new home. That way even more people could join the parade and celebrate with them. Sometimes, though, the groom tried to surprise the bride and bridesmaids by coming late at night and catch them sleeping.

Must Have Lit Lamps

It is interesting to note that while people waited for the groom or went to greet him in the streets, they had to have lit lamps. As a matter of fact, no one was allowed onto the street or to join the procession unless they had a lit lamp. If you wanted to be a part of the wedding party, you had to have a lamp that was ready to go so you could follow the groom to pick up his bride.

Doors Shut

If you were not part of the wedding party and you missed coming with all of the people who were following after the bride and groom, you would be locked out of the house. The door would be locked after all had entered to join the feast. You only had one chance to enter and that was with the wedding party itself. No late comers would be accepted.

Scene One: Waiting

Dim the room lights for this reading. The narrator uses a flashlight to read from the Bible.

Narrator reads Matthew 25:1-4. After he does so, two ladies in period costume enter the darkened room with their lamps burning.

Wise bridesmaid: (Excited) **I am so excited I can hardly wait. The groom might be here any moment. We will have to join him on the way to pick up the bride. With him there will be many, many people weaving through the streets on the way to the home and the wedding feast. Can you just hardly wait?**

Foolish bridesmaid: (Sceptical) **Well, I don't know if he will ever get here. It seems like we have been waiting so long anyway. He may not even come at all tonight. He did not come yesterday or the day before. Who knows when he will be here. I am sure it will be fun, but it would not surprise me if he did not even show up tonight. I bet he will not be here until tomorrow.**

Scene Two: Sleepy Surprise

Narrator reads Matthew 25:5-7. The two bridesmaids fall asleep as they hear verse five read.

Wise bridesmaid: (Wake up) **He's here! He's here! Wake up! Let's get our lamps ready. We must have light so we can greet him and can join the wedding procession.**

Foolish bridesmaid: (Borrow) **Wow! He did come after all. Can I borrow some oil for my lamp? I don't want to miss it now and my lamp is barely going. I know it will never make it through the procession.**

Wise bridesmaid: (Impossible) **I wish I could give you oil, but you will just have to get some oil yourself. Otherwise, both of our lamps will not work.**

Narrator: **This is not a matter of sharing or not sharing. This would be kind of like having two flashlights and one flashlight's batteries were dead. If you borrowed only one battery from the working flashlight it would not make things better. Both flashlights would not work.**

So it was that the five foolish bridesmaids had to go and buy oil. While they did this, the groom arrived. Everyone who was waiting for him had their lamps ready. They went with him all the way to the wedding hall. The door was shut behind them. Later, the foolish bridesmaids arrived and they said

Scene Three: Foolish Bridesmaid Returns

Foolish bridesmaid: (Returning) **He is not here! No one is here. I must have missed them! Maybe they have already gone to the wedding hall. I will go there and check.**

It sounds like there is a big feast going on inside. I will knock on the door. Please let me in, sir. I have my lamp. What do you mean you cannot let me in? Well, I know that I missed everyone going in together, but I want to come in now. What do you mean you don't even know who I am? Oh, no! I missed this just because I was not ready? (She exits in disappointment, leaving her lit lamp behind.)

Conclusion

Narrator takes a lit lamp and holds it for light as he wraps up this story.

Narrator: **Jesus told this story so he could teach us something very important. He said, "Stay awake. Be alert because you do not know the day or hour that I will come back."**

Boys and girls, here is a question for you. Do you expect Jesus to come back during your life? The Bible describes Jesus as coming back in all the glory of a million angels. Every eye will be able to see him at the same time. This whole world will begin to pass away and the new earth and heaven will be formed. Jesus will come back as judge to bring with

him all those who know him as their Savior. He will judge all those who have rejected him and not followed him.

Once again, how many of you think that you will be alive when Jesus comes back? (Point out to the children that, even if they are not alive when this happens, they would still be a part of this final return of Jesus. They would return with Jesus as a spirit and be united with a new body.) **Every person will be there, whether we live or die. Jesus wants us to live just as if he will return very soon . . . in our own lifetime.**

The next question is, if you expect Jesus to come back, what will you do to get ready? We learned from the parable that you cannot borrow someone else's oil to put into your lamp. That is just like you cannot have someone else's faith in Jesus to save you. You cannot get faith at the last minute, either. You must be ready right now. Luke 12:40 says, *"Be ready, because the Son of Man will return when you least expect him."*

When you go to your small groups, you will discuss what you want to put in your life that will fill you up so you will be ready when Jesus comes. It is just like this lamp filled up with oil. This is an important message so I know you won't want to miss it! **Jesus will come again—we need to be ready.*

Countdown to Christmas Blast Off:

Get Ready (Stage Three)

Puppet Presentation Conclusion

Gordy: Commander King, I think I know how soon it will be before Jesus returns.

Commander King: **How soon?**

Gordy: Very soon.

Gerdy: *Well, I had better sign off because I want to be ready for the blast off. This is Astronaut Gerdy. Over and out.*

Commander King: **This is Command Central . . .**

Gordy: I'm Command and he's Central . . .

Commander King: **And we're signing off with a prayer as we count down to Christmas Blast Off remembering that **Jesus will come again—we need to be ready.***

Gordy: *I'll close our time in prayer. Dear God, Jesus told us a story about being ready when he comes again. Help us to be ready. Help us to trust Jesus as our Savior and live every day excited because we will someday live in a perfect place with you. In Jesus' name, Amen.*