



**Matthew 25:13** “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”

Today our story is about being prepared for the Risen Jesus to come into our lives. Our picture is a lamp to light the way through darkness on our path to Jesus.

Jesus told this parable and Matthew wrote it into his gospel.

We begin on the night before a great wedding party. Ten young women are waiting up for the bridegroom to arrive. Each of them has her own lamp, the kind of lamp that uses oil to burn like a candle flame. The parable tells us that five of these young women are wise, and five are foolish.

The ten young women take their oil candle lamps and walk out to meet the bridegroom.

The five wise women carry their lamps and also a jar of extra oil. The five foolish women bring their lamps but no extra oil. It gets later and later and darker and darker, and the bridegroom still hasn't arrived. The women all fall asleep. While they are waiting and sleeping, their lamps begin to run out of oil.

At midnight, they wake up to hear that the bridegroom is finally coming. They try to get their lamps ready.

The five foolish women find that their lamps are going out. They need to go away and buy more oil for them. The five wise women refill their lamps from the oil jugs they carry. They go ahead to meet the bridegroom. The five wise women and the bridegroom go into the wedding feast. The door is shut.

Now the foolish women return. But they can't open the door to the party. The host says he doesn't know them.

In this parable, the wise women are prepared with extra oil, so their lamps are still lighted whenever the bridegroom arrives.

The story reminds Christians to keep our faith strong, like the wise women kept their lamps lit, to be prepared for Jesus whenever He arrives.

## The Ten Maidens

Just like the Ten Maidens who had a choice to take extra oil and be prepared for the coming of the bridegroom, you have a choice of which path to take. One will lead you to the light. The other path will lead to darkness.

