



2011

# **Go And Make Disciples**

**The Cross and Beyond**

## **Lesson 8:**

**Jesus Continues Talking About  
Coming Events**

**Scripture**

Matthew 25

**Memory Verse**

So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. James 2:17 (NLT)

**Lesson Goals**

Understand that Jesus is coming back.

Understand that the time for choosing Jesus is now.

Understand that true faith expresses itself in obedience.

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

What do you remember about Jesus' second coming? (Allow your students an opportunity to share what they remember.) As Jesus taught in the temple in Jerusalem, He encouraged those listening not to be afraid of the things that would happen in the future. He warned them of what to expect before He returned, but He assured them that no one except God knows when that will be.

Jesus continued teaching with another parable. Do you remember what a parable is? (It's a story with a meaning; an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.) Jesus said, "Here is what the kingdom of heaven will be like at that time. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went out to meet the groom." (Matthew 25:1 NIV) The bridesmaids carried lamps with them so that they could see because the streets were not lined with lights the way many of ours are. Jesus shared that half of the bridesmaids were foolish while the other half were wise. The five foolish bridesmaids didn't take any olive oil with them to refill their lamps, but the five wise bridesmaids carried extra oil in jars.

"The groom didn't come for a long time. So the bridesmaids all grew tired and fell asleep. At midnight someone cried out, 'Here's the groom! Come out to meet him!'" (Matthew 25:5-6 NIV) You see, back then a man chose the bride he wanted and then went away to build and prepare the home they would live in. When everything was ready, the groom would return for the bride. The bride and all of the wedding party would follow the groom, like a parade, back to his home. Then they would have the wedding feast.

So, when the bridesmaids heard that the groom was coming, they woke up and started to get their lamps ready. The foolish bridesmaids didn't have enough oil and asked the wise ones to share, but they said no. The wise bridesmaids didn't want to run out of oil themselves; they suggested the foolish bridesmaids leave and go buy some. "So they went to buy the oil. But while they were on their way, the groom arrived. The bridesmaids who were ready went in with him to the wedding dinner. Then the door was shut." (Matthew 25:10 NIV) When the foolish bridesmaids returned it was too late; they weren't allowed to enter. Jesus charged His listeners to, "keep watch. You do not know the day or the hour that the groom will come." (Matthew 25:13 NIV)

This was another parable about a wedding feast with almost the same message. The groom, Jesus, will return one day. We don't know when it will happen, but we can still be prepared. Now is the time to make a decision; will you follow Jesus?

The next parable Jesus shared shows us the importance of doing the right

### Application

Our memory verse is James 2:17. It says, "So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless."

The good things themselves don't save us. In fact we read in the book of Isaiah (64:6) that the good things we do amount to a pile of filthy rags. Not even our best is good enough to get to God.

What is amazing though, as we look at the actual wedding feast we will have one day with Jesus (Revelation 19:6-8) is that something is said about the things we do. Jesus, the Lamb of God, is the bridegroom. Those of us who have chosen to make Jesus Lord of our lives are considered His bride. And the Bible says that His bride will be dressed in the finest of linen dresses. That beautiful dress represents "the right things that God's people do."

The good things we do don't save us; they don't make us right with God. But if we belong to Jesus, those good things are expected.

thing as we wait for His return. It is the same idea as our memory verse from the last lesson about living holy and godly lives. Jesus shared, "Again, here is what the kingdom of heaven will be like. A man was going on a journey. He sent for his servants and put them in charge of his property." (Matthew 25:14 NIV) Some were given more than others, but they were all expected to do all that they could. When the master returned, the servant who was given the most as well as the next servant had doubled what they had. The servant given the least had done nothing. The master rewarded the two who had been busy by saying, "You have done well, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" There was no reward for the servant who had done nothing. "You evil, lazy servant!", the master replied. "Throw that worthless servant outside." (Matthew 25:26, 30 NIV)

And then Jesus reminded his listeners again saying, "The Son of Man [Jesus] will come in all His glory. All the angels will come with Him. Then He will sit on His throne in the glory of heaven." (Matthew 25:31 NIV) Then, Jesus talked about what will happen after He returns to heaven. "All the nations will be gathered in front of Him. He will separate the people into two groups. He will be like a shepherd who separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep to His right and the goats to His left." (Matthew 25:32-33 NIV) This will happen when Jesus is ready to judge what people have done.

"Then, the King will speak to those on His right. He will say, 'My Father has blessed you. Come and take what is yours. It is the kingdom prepared for you since the world was created. I was hungry. And you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty. And you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger. And you invited me in. I needed clothes. And you gave them to me. I was sick. And you took care of me. I was in prison. And you came to visit me.'" (Matthew 25:34-36 NIV) Who do you think these people on His right are? They are the ones who put their faith into practice and helped other people. Helping others is the same as doing it for Jesus.

On the other hand, for those on the King's left, He will say, "You are cursed! Go away from me into the fire that burns forever. It has been prepared for the devil and his angels." (Matthew 25:41 NIV) Why would He say something like that? And who will He say it to? Jesus will say this one day to those who didn't help others in need and by not helping them, they didn't do it for Jesus, either.

If we say that we follow Jesus, it is important to do good things. Those good things don't save us, but they are evidence of a faith that is real. True faith in Jesus isn't lazy, it's active!

### Preparing for the Next Lesson

Jesus: Greeks Seek Him-Jews Reject Him



# Preschool Lesson

## Teachers:

Bring a stuffed, toy lamb.

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Last week we talked about when Jesus will come back. No one knows when that will be except God, but we can trust Him and be sure that it will happen. Our lesson today tells us what will happen after that.

Jesus reminded his listeners that He would return. When He does, the angels will come with Him. Then He will sit on His throne in heaven. Everyone will come before Jesus as He sits on His throne and “He will separate the people into two groups. He will be like a shepherd who separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep to His right and the goats to His left.” (Matthew 25:32-33 NIV) This will happen when Jesus is ready to judge what people have done.

Jesus will tell those on His right, the sheep, to come and stay with Him. Jesus explained why they will do this. “I was hungry. And you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty. And you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger. And you invited me in. I needed clothes. And you gave them to me. I was sick. And you took care of me. I was in prison. And you came to visit me.” (Matthew 25:35-36 NIV) Who do you think these “sheep” are? They are the ones who listened to what the Bible says and who obeyed. They helped other people. Helping others is the same as helping Jesus.

The “sheep” were not the only ones, though. There were “goats,” the people who will be on Jesus’ left side. Jesus will tell them, “You are cursed! Go away from me into the fire that burns forever. It has been prepared for the devil and his angels.” (Matthew 25:41 NIV) Why would He say something like that? Jesus explained saying, “I was hungry. But you gave me nothing to eat. I was thirsty. But you gave me nothing to drink. I was a stranger. But you did not invite me in. I needed clothes. But you did not give me any. I was sick and in prison. But you did not take care of me.” (Matthew 24:42-43 NIV)

Jesus will say this one day to those who didn’t help others in need. By not helping them, they didn’t help Jesus, either.

If we say that we follow Jesus, it is important to do good things. Those good things don’t save us, or get us to heaven. Those good things show what is important to us. Following Jesus isn’t laziness; it’s active!



## Activities

- Memory Verse Activity - Print each word, and the reference, on individual cards. String a line across your Bible study area and attach each card, out of order, with a clothes pin or paper clip. Encourage your students to order the memory verse correctly. Repeat the memory verse enough that your students learn it from repetition.
- Encourage your students to fill out the journal/note page found on page 8. This can be used during the story to help focus your students or after the story as a review.
- Bring animal crackers or chocolate coins for the snack.
- Re-enact the parables and discuss their significance.
- Sing “Midnight Cry,” or Crystal Lewis’ “People Get Ready.”
- Find Jerusalem on a map.
- Make a “FAITH” acrostic.
- Take a look at Ephesians 2:1-10 and James 2:14-26. Discuss these in light of the lesson, especially the sheep and the goats.

**So you see,  
faith by itself  
isn't enough.**

**Unless it  
produces  
good deeds,  
it is dead  
and useless.**

**James 2:17**

Trace the letters.

Keep

watch!

# Focus on the Story

○  
**Story Title:**

**Scripture References:**

**Main Characters:**

**Story Summary:**

When?

○  
Where?

What?

How?

○





# Word Search

H T G S D I A M S E D I R B A  
P S N O I T S E E Q M E T S M  
R S U O L C A N H G N I M P C  
E H U N G R Y A T E S I L M R  
G E D L S G N A O W R S O A S  
N E O L R S O D L Y L I F L C  
A P N Y E S U J C H E A V D N  
N A G O G E U S D L S R A N E  
T N C U N S R S E S M U N A J  
W D R N A N G N E J D B S L N  
O G W R R A N D N J P I N I S  
M O M I T T I M H S I L O O F  
A A H U S R E H T O P L E H F  
N T A S R E D A Y T S R I H T  
H S L L Y O U R H E A R T W J

JESUS

BRIDESMAIDS

WISE

FOOLISH

OIL AND LAMPS

SHEEP AND GOATS

HUNGRY

THIRSTY

STRANGER

NEED CLOTHES

HELP OTHERS

HELP JESUS



# Word Search

H	T	G	S	D	I	A	M	S	E	D	I	R	B	A
P	S	N	O	I	T	S	E	E	Q	M	E	T	S	M
R	S	U	O	L	C	A	N	H	G	N	I	M	P	C
E	H	U	N	G	R	Y	A	T	E	S	I	L	M	R
G	E	D	L	S	G	N	A	O	W	R	S	O	A	S
N	E	O	L	R	S	O	D	L	Y	L	I	F	L	C
A	P	N	Y	E	S	U	J	C	H	E	A	V	D	N
N	A	G	O	G	E	U	S	D	L	S	R	A	N	E
T	N	C	U	N	S	R	S	E	S	M	U	N	A	J
W	D	R	N	A	N	G	N	E	J	D	B	S	L	N
O	G	W	R	R	A	N	D	N	J	P	I	N	I	S
M	O	M	I	T	T	I	M	H	S	I	L	O	O	F
A	A	H	U	S	R	E	H	T	O	P	L	E	H	F
N	T	A	S	R	E	D	A	Y	T	S	R	I	H	T
H	S	L	L	Y	O	U	R	H	E	A	R	T	W	J

JESUS

BRIDESMAIDS

WISE

FOOLISH

OIL AND LAMPS

SHEEP AND GOATS

HUNGRY

THIRSTY

STRANGER

NEED CLOTHES

HELP OTHERS

HELP JESUS



# Preschool Word Search

R I F S E A Y T D I N G  
B P H E A V E N O D Y E  
F S B I R T H P A I N S  
F T R H E L P J E S U S  
J E S U S O U L N Y L S  
H O W J E S U S A D D O  
S T R E N C L O S E R E  
H E L P O T H E R S U S  
M G O A T S D S R I E S  
D E A J M I N D I S E N  
L A K I N G G O S E Y J  
C O M I N G S H E E P T

JESUS

HEAVEN

SHEEP

GOATS

HELP OTHERS

HELP JESUS



# Preschool Word Search

R I F S E A Y T D I N G  
B P **H E A V E N** O D Y E  
F S B I R T H P A I N S  
F T R **H E L P J E S U S**  
J E S U S O U L N Y L S  
H O W **J E S U S** A D D O  
S T R E N C L O S E R E  
**H E L P O T H E R S** U S  
M **G O A T S** D S R I E S  
D E A J M I N D I S E N  
L A K I N G G O S E Y J  
C O M I N G **S H E E P** T

JESUS

HEAVEN

SHEEP

GOATS

HELP OTHERS

HELP JESUS