

Children's Message

11.9.08

Materials: Two flashlights with dead batteries and extra batteries for only one of the flashlights.

Good morning.

Today we are thinking about one of Jesus' great stories from the Bible. It is a story about ten bridesmaids. Five were foolish and five were wise. The bridesmaids were waiting for a bridegroom to arrive so that they could go to a marriage feast. Now, in those days, weddings happened much more quickly. Tradition in those days tells us that weddings were also usually a bit of a surprise- the groom would actually make everyone wait and wait and then suddenly call everyone together for the feast.

So, back to these 10 bridesmaids- they were waiting and waiting and waiting- and it was dark. And they needed lamps.

You know what? I need a couple of volunteers. You get to represent 5 of the bridesmaids and you get to represent the other 5 bridesmaids. And I have authentic Bible time lamps for you to hold.

Okay, back to the story- now I told you that it was dark and they were waiting and waiting. But they were getting very tired and even fell asleep while they were waiting. Then, all of a sudden someone was shouting, "Look, the groom is coming! Come out to meet him!"

So the bridesmaids jumped up, and lit their lamps in order to go to the wedding. What's wrong? Your lamp didn't light? You better change the oil (I mean, batteries in it.) What's wrong? You didn't bring extra batteries for your bible lamp? Oooo, I guess we know which bridesmaid is the foolish one, don't we? Too bad *she* doesn't have any more batteries to share with you, huh? Oh no- you better go to the store to get more. Bummer- you're going to be late for the wedding, aren't you? I wonder if they'll even let you in. Not very well prepared for this are you? Too bad. Foolish bridesmaid.

Nice job, volunteers. Sit right down again.

Do you know why Jesus told this story? It sounds pretty funny when you listen to it, but if you really take the time to *hear* what Jesus is telling us- He is saying that we need always to be ready. But ready for what? Ready to live like Jesus did. Remember we have said over and over that Jesus gave us a perfect example for how to live our lives, and in order to be true followers of Jesus, we have to try very hard to live like He did. We need to watch for when someone else needs our help. We need to listen carefully so we can make good and right decisions. We need to tell other people about Jesus, so they can bring Jesus into their hearts. We need to listen to and understand our Bible lessons, so we can fully know God. We need to say our prayers and really talk to God. We need to love our brothers and our sisters. And if we can do all of that, well, then, we're doing the job that Jesus has told us to and we're ready.

Reverend Wiley, will you please lead us in a prayer?