

Date: January 8-9, 2021

Title: “End Times Week 2

Have Fun Together - Ice Breakers:

1. What’s the most ridiculous thing your parents ever did to embarrass you?
2. What is your favorite smell and why?

Read The Bible Together - Key Verses:

“Then the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. The five who were foolish didn’t take enough olive oil for their lamps, but the other five were wise enough to take along extra oil.”

Matthew 25:1-4 NLT

<https://www.bible.com/116/mat.25.1-4.nlt>

“When the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.”

Matthew 25:5 NLT

<https://www.bible.com/116/mat.25.5.nlt>

“At midnight they were roused by the shout, ‘Look, the bridegroom is coming! Come out and meet him!’”

Matthew 25:6 NLT

<https://www.bible.com/116/mat.25.6.nlt>

“All the bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. Then the five foolish ones asked the others, ‘Please give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.’ “But the others replied, ‘We don’t have enough for all of us. Go to a shop and buy some for yourselves.’”

Matthew 25:7-9 NLT

<https://www.bible.com/116/mat.25.7-9.nlt>

“But while they were gone to buy oil, the bridegroom came. Then those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was locked. Later, when the other five bridesmaids returned, they stood outside, calling, ‘Lord! Lord! Open the door for us!’ “But he called back, ‘Believe me, I don’t know you!’”

Matthew 25:10-12 NLT

<https://www.bible.com/116/mat.25.10-12.nlt>

“So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return.”

Matthew 25:13 NLT

<https://www.bible.com/116/mat.25.13.nlt>

Message Summary:

ALL of the bridesmaids became drowsy and fell asleep. It did not matter what the preparation was or how much oil they brought. They faced a situation they couldn't control.

The five unprepared bridesmaids asked the prepared bridesmaids for some of their oil, but they declined giving them any. The unprepared bridesmaids missed out on the celebration.

Your preparation determines your celebration.

When life does not go our way we run out of oil because we were focused on predicting rather than preparing.

Prediction doesn't mean preparation.

You won't be able to tell when Jesus is coming back. Jesus said - "Keep watch... for you do not know the day or hour." You can't predict; so you've got to prepare!

Take Next Steps Together - Discussion Questions:

- 1: Have you felt like you had to just "get through" this season?
- 2: Has God been an after thought lately?
- 3: What delays has God allowed in your life recently? If you have had one, how have you seen God show up in that season?
- 4: If you have had a delay in your life that God has allowed, have you let that period of waiting lead to distraction?
- 5: What does your oil look like right now, in other words how is your relationship with God right now?
- 6: What's at the center of your life?
- 7: How have you been investing in people in your community? Are you inviting them toward a relationship with God?
- 8: What stood out to you most about this message?

Pray Together - Prayer Focus Points:

- Pray about God being the center of our lives
- Pray about keeping us from distraction in times of waiting
- Pray about investing in those around us so they can prepare and celebrate with us