

Aim of lesson

That the class may realise their need to be ready for the coming of Christ.

Bible background

Matthew 25

Outline of lesson

Reading for the wedding?

Ask if any of the class has been a bridesmaid or a page-boy at a wedding. Ask if they were ready on time. Did they have their flowers or ring on a cushion ready? What would have happened if they had not been ready and had not arrived? The wedding would have gone on without them.

Read together Matthew 25:1-13. Get the class to write what is happening under each of the first set of pictures in the workbook. Ask them who the characters represent. Draw out the meaning of the parable. Now write the conclusion “We should be ready for Jesus’ return” on the line below. It is best not to discuss what ‘being ready’ means in detail at this stage as that is what the next two parables explain.

Using our talents

Read together Matthew 25:14-30. All these parables are suitable for reading by using different members of the class for the different characters. Get the class to draw in the ‘think bubbles’ in the workbook what each man thought of doing with the money he had been given. Ask them what this parable teaches about what ‘being ready’ means. Get them to write a suitable conclusion such as ‘being ready means serving God well with what he has given us’ in the space available. Get the class to draw in the ‘coins’ the things which God has given them. These can include life and food, etc., as well as brains and what we now call ‘talents’.

Sheep or goats?

Read together Matthew 25:31-46. Help the class to see how Jesus is developing this idea of being ready for his return by now giving specific examples of behaviour upon which his disciples will be judged. Many of the things that the class have written in the ‘coins’ will be things that Jesus here asks us to share with those who lack (like food, health, time, and friends). Get the class to write the words the king says to each group in the space provided (it may have to be abbreviated).

Digging deeper

More parables about the kingdom

This section is a study of some more parables about the kingdom and what they mean.

Relevance to our lives

Ask the class to think of one needy person or group on the list Jesus gives and to do something this week to help. Discuss next week how they got on.

Prayer

Dear Father, help us to care for others and show real kindness, and to be ready for Jesus when he comes.

Other suggestions for activities

The class could write their own parable about being ready for the arrival of an important guest. Getting house, food and clothes ready for the occasion.