

# What's God Up to?

Matthew 25:1-10 “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ ‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

Ephesians 5:25-32 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— for we are members of his body. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.

The infinite, all powerful, GOD Almighty has worked long and hard with an unswerving purpose and direction. He has created the entire universe and placed us in it. He sent His only Son to redeem us. Why? What's He up to? Is He doing this just so we can have a fun happy eternity?

Lets review some verses to see if we can get a sense of His purpose:

A parable is a story with a meaning that is hidden from unbelievers but can be discovered by true believer with guidance from the Holy Spirit. Jesus tells a parable of ten virgins (Matthew 25: 1-10). Read the parable (printed in red because it is Jesus speaking) in the left column. He is describing what it will be like when this world ends and Jesus comes back. What can we discover about the “kingdom of heaven”?

---

How many brides were waiting to marry the one groom?

1. Just one.
2. Five.
3. A bunch.

Who do these waiting virgins represent?

1. Pretty girls.
2. All people on earth.
3. Just Christians.

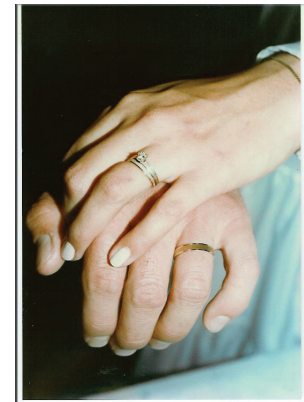
The virgins separated into two groups, foolish and wise.

What are the groups of people these represent?

1. People with low IQ and high IQ.
2. Save and unsaved.
3. Girls and boys.

Who is the groom?

What happens at a wedding banquet?



# What's God Up to?

Revelation 19:7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready..

Isaiah 61:10 I delight greatly in the LORD: my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Isaiah 62:5 As a young man marries a maiden, so will your sons marry you; as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.

2Corinthians 11:2 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.

Luke 5:33-34 They said to him, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking." Jesus answered, "Can you make the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them?"

Revelation 21:2-3 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God

Read all the verses in blue in the left column. What is the common relational situation?

Whether in parable, vision, or direct teaching, the common element of a \_\_\_\_\_ is portrayed between God and man.

Read Ephesians 5:25-32. The Bible indicates that we are part of one: \_\_\_\_\_

Does this passage seem to equate the church body to a wife?

In verse 31 Paul mentions that a man and wife will become united. Then in verse 32 he says he is talking about the church.)

## **Putting it all together:**

God is infinite. What does infinite mean?

People are \_\_\_\_\_. What does finite mean?

A person can have many relationships, but only a few really close friends and only one wife. How many close relationships do you suppose God can have?

Christ is the head of the church. The church is made up of billions of believers. This number is huge, almost infinite.

From all of this information what do you feel is God's intentions toward Christians?

What is God's triumphant proclamation in Revelation 21:2-3?

Our relationship with God will have many aspects. From your knowledge of the Bible, what other relationships do we have with God?

# Lesson Plan: What's God up to?

## **The Goal:**

The goal of this lesson is to expand teens realization of the intimate relationship God has planned for us with the culmination of time.

Biblical knowledge is hard pressed to keep up with the excitement and adrenaline rush provided by today's entertainment. Kids are bored with Christianity. If they only knew what they were in for -the inexpressible joy promised by God when we unite with Him.

## **Pre-Lesson Activity:**

Play the simple game: "Honey I love you..." This game is a staring contest. Make a circle. Choose one kid to be in the middle. He (or she) must say to another kid, "Honey, I love you." The other kids must respond, keeping a straight face, "Honey, I love you but I just can't smile." If the kid cracks a smile while responding he loses and must take the position in the center of the circle. The cycle begins again. Lots of laughs as the kids struggle to keep a straight face.

## **Leading the lesson:**

Spend some time in prayer the day before, going over the verses and questions in your mind. As a leader you may be startled with the revelation of the depth of the relationship to which we as Christians have been called. These scriptures reveal that God is actually creating a mate for himself, an infinite being composed of billions of finite people. Rarely is heaven portrayed in this fashion. Usually teachers simply suggest that "heaven is a wonderful place, full of beauty and grace." I can hear the Veggie Tales characters singing it now. It's time to give them the grown up info.

If your group is younger junior-high age encourage them to fill in the blanks with the correct answers and hand in their papers at the end of class. For older kids, especially high-school age, just use the questions as discussion starters.

Have a kid read the first set of verses and then go thru the questions for those verses. Give them time to answer. Listen to what they say and lead the discussion with additional questions of your own to lead them to the correct answers.

Note: When reading, kids will frequently stumble on words they do not know. Explain the meaning of the words so they can fully grasp the concept of the Bible verse. Sometimes you must restate the passage in your own words for them to get it.

This a fairly long lesson with lots of reading so allow a little extra time and keep the discussion moving. Watch the kids faces as they realize the depth of intimacy in the relationship that God is calling them to.

## **Summary:**

The answers to the multiple choice questions are 3, 2 and 2. The final answer would be answers like: Father, Lord, friend,

## **Take Prayer Requests**

Always ask the kids for prayer requests for the next week. Check how things have turned out from the previous week's concerns.