

MATTHEW 25:1-13

GETTING STARTED...

Have you ever been surprised by something you were not ready for? Maybe you had a school project that you didn't know was due or someone showed up at your house earlier than expected. Being caught when you are not ready never feels great. That is why Jesus warns his disciples so much about being ready for his second coming. He doesn't want his disciples to be caught off guard, but be ready for when he returns. This doesn't mean we are focused on our house, but on our souls. Are we ready for the return of Christ? Will he find us faithful? Jesus makes sure his disciples are well aware that he will return when they do not expect, when others think it will never happen. Yet Jesus is faithful to his word, he is coming soon!

READ THE TEXT: MATTHEW 25:1-13

25 “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. **2** Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. **3** For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, **4** but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. **5** As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. **6** But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ **7** Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. **8** And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ **9** But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ **10** And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. **11** Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ **12** But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ **13** Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. What is the main point of the parable? Put into your own words the main emphasis that Jesus is trying to get across to his disciples.
2. What are the similarities and differences between the wise and the foolish women? What is the main point of difference?

REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been impressing on your heart from the sermon?

APPLYING THE POINT

5. How do we put this into practice?

Agassiz Have you noticed some drowsiness in your walk of faith? What practical things have you learned to be awake? What do people see when they examine your life? Do they see only you or do they see a growing reflection of the Lord Jesus Christ? Knowing the Holy Spirit is at work in your life, how can you find rest in His work while remain active in your calling as a faithful disciple of Jesus? List a few practical ways.

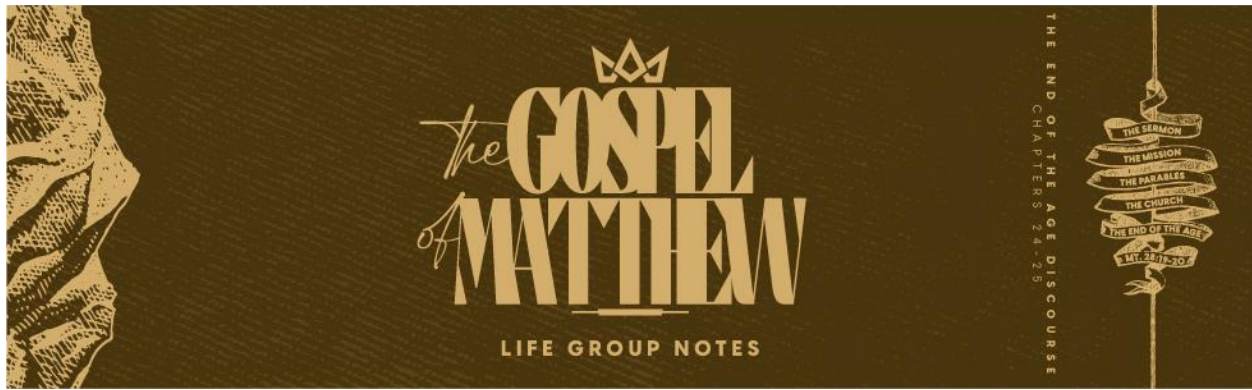
Chilliwack None of us has perfect faith but what marks Christians is present, active faith in the finished work of Jesus. Share ways your faith is growing right now and identify ways that you see each other growing in faithfulness and fruitfulness in the Christian life.

Harrison/Lake Errock If Jesus returned tomorrow, would you be ready? While we are saved freely by grace through faith, personal salvation should be demonstrated through a growing conformity to the image of Christ and fruitful labor. What fruit can you point to in your life for the gracious, all-sufficient, saving work of Christ in your life?

Promontory What does being prepared to meet Jesus look like in our day to day lives? What are practical steps you can take this week to be prepared?

PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer? An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Central Life Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Life Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Life Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

While the meaning of a text doesn't change, the way that we are called to apply it may look different from campus to campus, and even person to person. To reflect this distinction, you will see application questions from each campus in this guide.

Start with the question(s) from your campus and then look at others to see if they are helpful for your group. You may be surprised how similar or different they end up being and how the diversity brings a fuller understanding to how we can apply the Word of God.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*“Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.” - Psalm 111:2*