

## Out of This World

### Week 7: Ready or Not

**Objective:** To challenge us to be ready to face Jesus and to help others do the same.

**Read together:**

*“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise. 3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4 The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. 5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. 6 “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ 7 “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ 9 “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.’ 10 “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. 11 “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’ 12 “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’ 13 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”*

Matthew 25:1-13

*Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.*

James 2:18-19

- Why do you think most people have such a hard time waiting for things? How good are you at waiting?
- When you think of the return of Jesus, do you see it as a fearful event or as a reason to celebrate? Why?
- How should not knowing when we'll come face to face with Jesus impact the way we live our daily lives? How has it impacted *your* daily life?
- If we must each be ready to meet the King on our own, then what is the value of the church community?
- If we are not ready to meet the King, we will miss out in the end. Does this concept bother you? Why or why not? What's the difference between God punishing us for not being ready and His allowing us to experience the consequences of our actions?
- James tells us that even the demons believe in Jesus, and they shudder. Does that motivate you to do more than just believe? If so, what?

**Final Thoughts:** Sooner or later we will all see Jesus face to face. Ask yourself if you're ready?

**This Week:** What can you do to make sure you're ready to meet the King? What can you do to help someone else be ready as well?

