

**Group Study Guide**

April 6-7, 2024

The Stories Jesus Told: The Shut Door

Kurt Bjorklund

**MESSAGE NOTES:**

Matthew 25:1 - *"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom."*

Matthew 4:17 - *"From that time on Jesus began to preach, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'"*

Matthew 25:11-12 - <sup>11</sup>*"Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!'* <sup>12</sup>*"But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.'"*

Matthew 7:21-23 - <sup>21</sup>*"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup>Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' <sup>23</sup>Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"*

1 Corinthians 16:13 - *"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong."*

Colossians 4:2 - *"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."*

1 Peter 5:8 - *"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."*

Revelation 3:2-3 - <sup>2</sup>*"Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. <sup>3</sup>Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you."*

Revelation 16:15 - *"Look, I come like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake and remains clothed, so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed."*

## **STUDY GUIDE:**

### **STEP ONE: Icebreaker (Optional):**

- Think of a time when you were late for something. What happened?

### **STEP TWO: Prayer & Scripture Reading**

- Ask someone in your group to pray to open your time together.
- Ask another person to read **Matthew 25:1-13**.

### **STEP THREE: Discuss Questions**

1. What was challenging, encouraging, confusing, or stood out most to you from this past weekend's teaching?
2. What is the kingdom of heaven like?
3. Why were five of the virgins considered wise? Why were the other five considered foolish?
4. Why didn't the wise virgins share their oil with the foolish virgins?
5. Who does the bridegroom represent, and why does he come at midnight?
6. What is the most important planning and preparing we can do for the future?

### **STEP FOUR: Prayer**

- Ask someone in your group to close in prayer.