

Small Group Questions

Week of October 25, 2026

Ready: The Olivet Discourse — The Wise and Foolish Bridesmaids

At That Time...

1. Jesus begins this parable with the words “At that time.” Tell about a time when you were unprepared for something but didn't realize just how unprepared you were until it was too late.
2. Who is the procrastinator in your family? How does that work out for them—and for everyone else?
3. Who is the prepper in your family or friend group? What are they always prepared for? Who would win the title of “Biggest Prepper” in our group?

Read Matthew 25:1–13 and Luke 12:13–21

4. Compare these two parables. What similarities do you see? What differences stand out to you?
5. What assumptions did the rich fool make about his future? What assumptions did the foolish bridesmaids make?
6. This is the third parable we've studied in which Jesus warns about an unexpected reckoning. Why do you think Jesus emphasizes this so much? What do you think He wants His followers to understand?
7. What's the difference between wisely preparing for the future and assuming we'll always have more time?

Focusing on the Bridesmaids: Matthew 25:1–13

8. What assumptions do the foolish bridesmaids seem to make? Why are those assumptions dangerous? Which of these are you most tempted to make yourself?
9. Do you think the oil in this parable represents something beyond the oil itself? If so, what might it represent? What makes you think that?
10. Was it wrong for the wise bridesmaids not to share their oil? What does this part of the story teach us about personal responsibility? Are there times when helping someone else isn't actually something we can, or should, do for them?
11. Who is ultimately responsible for your readiness to meet Jesus? Can someone else's faith or spiritual preparation make you ready for His return? Is that thought reassuring or challenging to you? Why?
12. What do you make of verses 11–12, when the foolish bridesmaids return and find the door shut? How does this connect with the opening of the parable in verse 1? What does this teach us about the Lord's timing and the urgency of being ready?

Putting It into Practice

13. Is there something you've been putting off: a conversation, a relationship issue, a conflict, or a decision—that you could take a step toward addressing this week? What's one practical step you could take?