



## Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups

# The Parable of the 10 Bridesmaids

Preached by Daniel Grothe

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### Summary

*Have someone in your group read the following summary aloud.*

In this sermon from Matthew 25:1-13, the Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids, Pastor Daniel explores what it means to be truly prepared for the life of faith. Five of the bridesmaids were wise and brought extra oil for their lamps, while five were foolish and came unprepared. When the bridegroom arrived later than expected, the foolish ones ran out of oil and missed the wedding feast entirely. Pastor Daniel uses this story to challenge the congregation to move beyond a casual, surface-level faith and commit fully to following Jesus, no matter the cost or the wait.

The sermon highlights three insights: following Jesus is not casual side work but a lifelong commitment that costs everything; God graciously allows us to rest along the way, and the goal is not to always be burning the midnight oil but to have deep reserves ready for midnight moments; and you cannot borrow someone else's relationship with God. True spiritual preparedness is

slowly built through daily time in Scripture and prayer, wise long-term relationships, and consistent participation in the community of faith.

## Key Passages

- Matthew 25:1-13
- Psalm 4:8
- Psalm 34:1

## Opening Prayer

*Open your session in prayer, using the words below or your own*

**Heavenly Father**, we come before You today as a group of people who want to be ready. We want to be the kind of followers who have deep reserves of faith, not just a surface-level connection to Your name. As we open Your Word and discuss what it means to truly follow Jesus, we ask that You would soften our hearts and open our eyes. Speak to each person in this room in the way they most need to hear You today. Where there is complacency, bring conviction. Where there is weariness, bring renewal. And where there is genuine hunger, bring satisfaction. We do not want to miss the moments You have prepared for us. Fill us with Your Spirit even now. In Jesus' name, **Amen**.

## Getting Going

*Allow time for each member to answer the following questions before moving on.*

What is one thing you have done in your life that required a lot of long-term patience and preparation, and how did it feel when the moment finally arrived?

## **Discussion Questions**

*Answer as many of these questions as time and interest allow.*

1. Pastor Daniel described the five foolish bridesmaids as people who wanted to follow Jesus, but not too much. In what areas of your own life do you find it tempting to follow Jesus casually rather than fully?
2. The bridegroom was described as 'a long time in coming.' Have you ever experienced a season of faith where God seemed slow to act or respond? How did you handle that waiting period?
3. The sermon made a distinction between always burning the midnight oil and having oil ready when a midnight moment happens. What does it look like practically to build spiritual reserves before a crisis arrives rather than scrambling during one?
4. Pastor Daniel said that following Jesus is not a fourteener you summit and then descend. It is Monday morning, laundry, and paying taxes. How does that picture of ordinary, daily faithfulness challenge or encourage you?
5. The sermon pointed out that all ten bridesmaids fell asleep, and that was okay. How do you personally balance the call to be spiritually alert and prepared with the equally important need for rest and renewal?

6. The foolish bridesmaids asked the wise ones to share their oil, but it could not be transferred. What does it mean to you that you cannot borrow someone else's relationship with God? How does that motivate you in your own spiritual life?
7. Pastor Daniel mentioned figures like Harriet Tubman, Winston Churchill, and Malala Yousafzai as people who had oil in their lamps when their defining moments came. Who in your own life has modeled that kind of deep, prepared faith, and what did you observe in them?
8. The sermon offered three practical ways to build oil reserves: daily time in God's presence, staying in wise long-term relationships, and remaining consistently in the house of God. Which of these three feels most challenging for you right now, and why?

## **Making It Personal**

*Take the opportunity noted below to apply this week's sermon to your everyday life.*

This week, identify one specific and practical habit you will begin or strengthen to build your spiritual reserves. It could be setting aside 15 minutes each morning with your Bible and a simple prayer, reaching out to one person in your life who spurs you toward deeper faith, or committing to consistent attendance in your church community. Choose one, write it down, and share it with someone in this group so they can check in with you next week.

## **Key Takeaways**

*Commit to memory one point from the message before dismissing.*

- Following Jesus is not casual side work that can be fit in whenever it is convenient. It is a full-price, lifelong commitment that costs everything.
- The bridegroom is often a long time in coming, and genuine faith requires the gritty endurance to keep going through the slow, ordinary, and difficult seasons of life.
- God gives us permission to rest. The goal is not to always be burning the midnight oil but to have deep reserves of oil ready for when a midnight moment arrives.
- You cannot borrow someone else's relationship with God. Spiritual preparedness is slowly and personally built over years of prayer, Scripture, and obedience.
- Staying in wise relationships and remaining consistently present in the community of faith are essential practices for building the kind of deep reserves that keep our lamps burning.

## **Closing Prayer**

*Have someone from your group close your time in prayer, using the words below or your own.*

**Lord Jesus,** Thank You for the warning and the invitation in this parable. You do not want any of us to miss the wedding feast. You have told us what is coming so that we can be ready. As we leave this discussion today, we ask that You would make us people of deep reserves. Help us to show up daily in Your presence, to invest in relationships that push us toward wisdom, and to remain faithful in Your house week after week and year after year. When the midnight moments of our lives arrive, may our lamps be burning. May the people around us see the light and be led to You. We do not want to carry Your name into emptiness. We want to carry it with the full weight of a life that has been shaped by Your Spirit. Keep us, fill us, and make us ready. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, **Amen.**