

*Nurturing Faith...  
Every Day in Every Way*

November 12, 2017

**Twenty-Third Sunday of Pentecost**

*Amos 5:18-24*

*Psalms 70*

*I Thessalonians 4:13-18*

*Matthew 25:1-13*



**Give Me Oil In My Lamp.** *Objects: A flashlight and some extra batteries.*

We always keep a flashlight in our house. We keep the flashlight so that if the lights go out, we will be able to find our way around in the dark. We have to check the batteries regularly to make sure they are still working, and we have to make sure there are always extra batteries on hand.

In the time that Jesus lived, they used oil lamps. It was important for the people of Jesus' day to have a good supply of oil on hand for their lamps. One day, Jesus told a story. A wedding was about to take place. The bride had ten bridesmaids and they were waiting for the bridegroom to come and take them to his house where the wedding would take place. Weddings were almost always at night and the bridesmaids would light their lamps and lead the bride to the house of the bridegroom. Jesus said that while they were waiting, the bridesmaids became tired and fell asleep.

Suddenly, everyone was awakened by someone shouting. "Look, the bridegroom is coming! The bridesmaids jumped up and began to prepare their lamps. Five of the bridesmaids had not brought any extra oil, so they didn't have enough oil to light their lamps. The other five had very wisely brought extra oil, so they were well-prepared and lit their lamps. The foolish ones asked to borrow some oil, but they were told to go buy some more oil. While they were gone, the bridegroom came and the five who were ready went with him to the wedding feast. When the foolish ones bought more oil, and went to the groom's house, it was too late. The door had already been closed and locked.

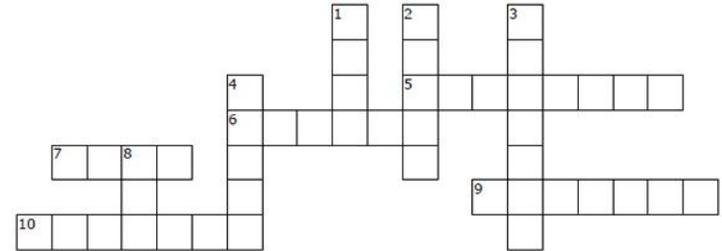
In this story, the bridegroom is Jesus and you and I are the bridesmaids. What can we do to make sure we are ready? We can read his Word, do what it says, and put our trust in him. If we will do that, we will be ready. Our light will be shining brightly to show others the way to him.

Heavenly Father, we want to be ready when Jesus comes again. Help us to trust in him and follow his teachings. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia. Keep awake and be ready, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. Alleluia. (Matthew 24:42, 44)

# Crossword Puzzle



**ACROSS**

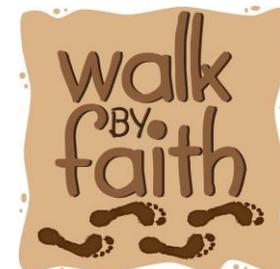
- 5. 12 o'clock at night
- 6. Not awake
- 7. A swinging or sliding cover over the place where someone usually enters a room
- 9. Ceremony in which a man and a woman are married.
- 10. Someone who does not use good judgment is \_\_\_\_\_.

**DOWN**

- 1. Someone who has good judgment and makes good decisions is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. Devices used to produce light
- 3. A feast or meal held in recognition of some person or occasion
- 4. To observe or look at something
- 8. A liquid that is often used to make fuel.

MIDNIGHT	LAMPS	WATCH	OIL	FOOLISH
ASLEEP	DOOR	BANQUET	WISE	WEDDING

**TRUST AND FOLLOW BOOK MARKER:** Give the child supplies to make and decorate a book marker for TRUST and FOLLOW, or WATCH AND BE READY. The child can draw little "feet" for the "trust and follow" or could draw "eyes" for the Watch and Be Ready bookmaker.



# THE PARABLE OF THE TEN BRIDESMAIDS

## MATTHEW 25:1-13



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