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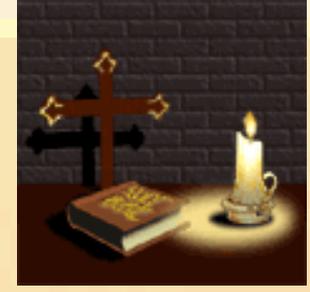
MAHDERE-SEBEHAT LEDETA LEMARIAM
ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX
TEWAHEDO CHURCH



**Lessons are prepared by Ledeta LeMariam
Sunday School
Alexandria, Virginia**

**For information please contact:
Yonas Assefa
Email: ledetasunday@yahoo.com**

In the name of the
Father, and the Son, and
the Holy Spirit, one God.
Amen.



Begin with the Lord's prayer

Our Lord and Savior, our King and God, we thank you for gathering us here to stand before you to call on your Holy Name.

Heavenly Father, teach us to trust You in everything we do. Our God open our eyes, ears, hearts and minds that we may hear Your Word, keep it in our hearts and tell our friends about your glory and honor.

Bless all the children and keep them safe. Hear us when we humbly and thankfully pray to you.

Our Father, who art in heaven

Hallowed be thy name,

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done

On earth as it is in heaven

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our trespasses

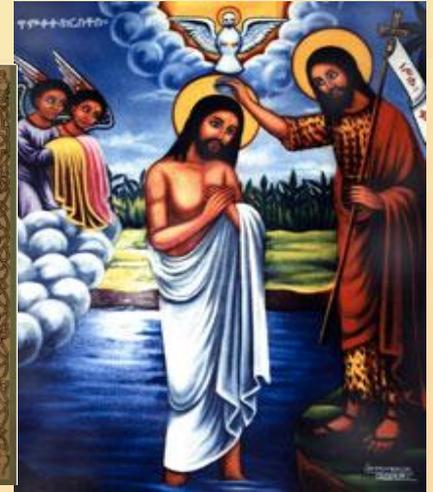
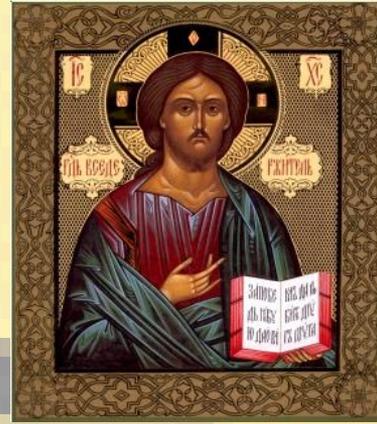
As we forgive those who trespass against us

And lead us not into temptation

But deliver us from the evil one

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the

Glory. Forever, Amen.



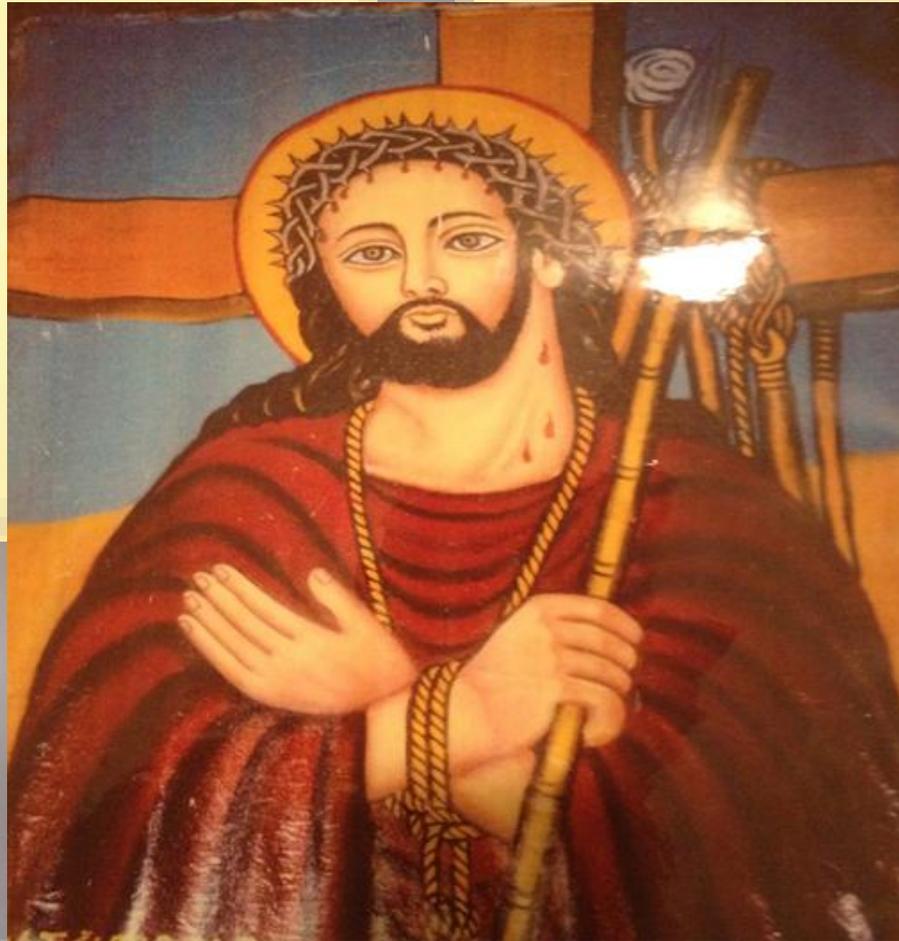
O our Lady, as St. Gabriel greeted you, “Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.” True Virgin in conscience as well as body, blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

Holy Mary, the God-bearer, pray that your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, may forgive us our sins. Amen.



Say The Jesus Prayer 3 times

**Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
have mercy on me, a sinner.**



MEMORY VERSE

**Can anyone tell me
last week's
memory verse???**

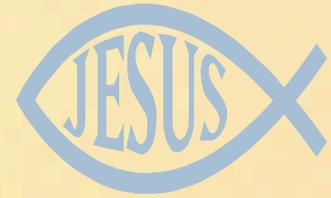
Recite Last week's memory verse

“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much”.

(James 5:16)

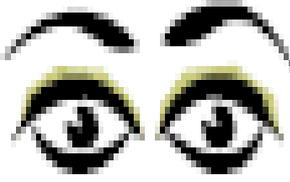


Review



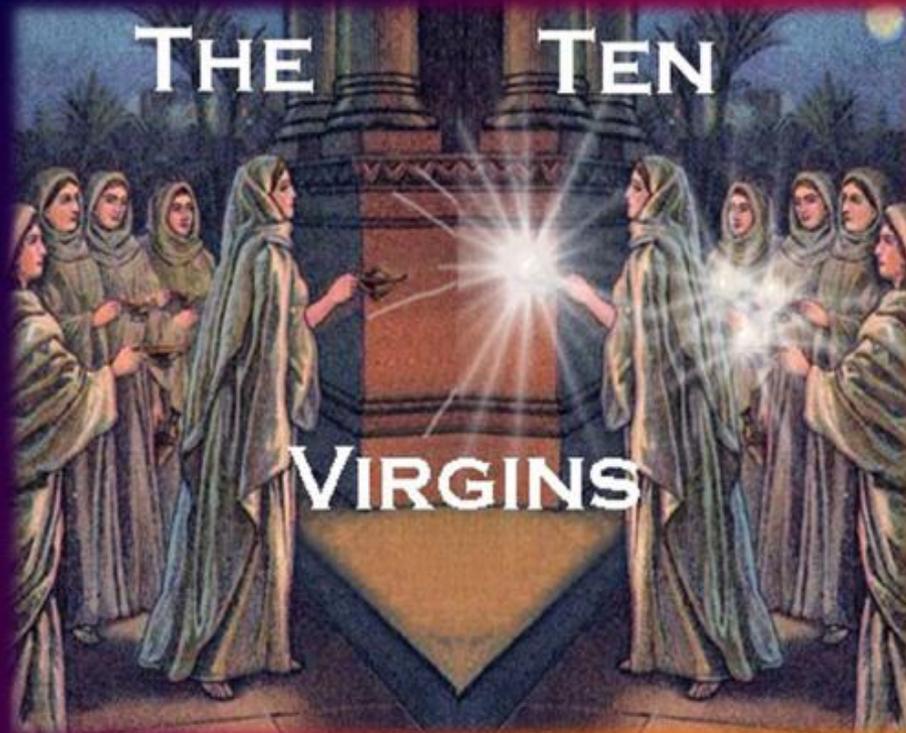
- 1. Where were Jesus Christ, the Virgin Mary and His disciples invited to?**
- 2. What problem did the wedding hosts have?**
- 3. Who told Jesus Christ about the problem they had?**
- 4. What did Jesus Christ do to solve their problem?**
- 5. Do the angels hear us?**
- 6. Where the spirits of the saints go after their bodies die?**
- 7. Do the saints hear us after their death?**
- 8. If the saints are in heaven and we are on earth how can they hear us? (By the Power of the Holy Spirit)**
- 9. Are we praying to the saints or do we ask them to join our prayers to God?**
- 10. Who is closer to God, St. Mary or the angels?**
- 11. Who's prayer is stronger, my prayer or St. Mary's?**

Class Covenant

I will keep my  on my teacher,
my  in control,
my s on God's Word;
knowing God is my goal.

The Parable of the 10 Virgins

The Parable of the 10 Virgins



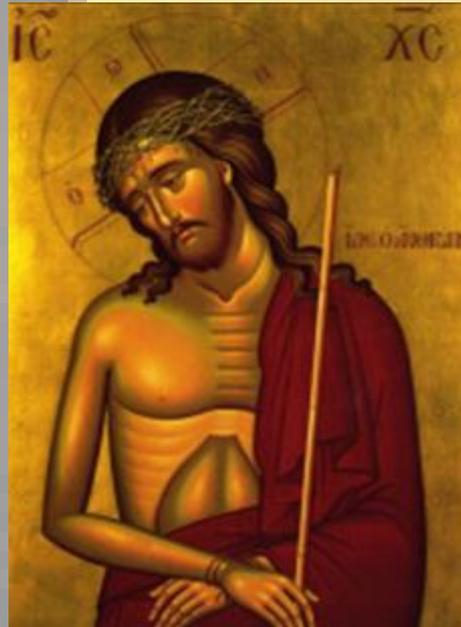
March 16, 2014

Memorize today's Verse

**“Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet Him”.
(Matthew 25:6)**



**Practice this verse
again during the
week.**



**We should
watch for
Jesus'
return**

Jesus tells a Parable on the Mount of Olives

- **What is a parable?**
 - A picture story -an example to help us understand things about the Kingdom of heaven and God
- **The Parable of the 10 Virgins**
 - A wedding as example
 - The truth of living a life in expectation of His return.
 - We should be less concerned with knowing the exact date and more concerned with being prepared to meet Him (Matthew 24:3)

Matthew 25:1

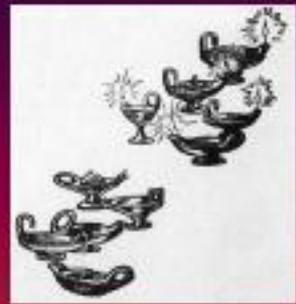
- “Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.”



THE WEDDING

- Long ago in the Jewish culture
 - A man and a woman would first be engaged for a long time - to get to know each other.
 - This engagement promise was just as binding as marriage vows.

The wedding



- Here is what the weddings were like:
 - 2 parts:
 - 1) The bridegroom and his friends would go from house to house (at night) on the way to claim the bride from her parents.
 - The bride waited for him in great expectations with her bridesmaids.
 - 2) As the bridegroom approached, the bridesmaids went out with their lamps in hand to light the way into the house for the ceremony.
 - Then the bride and the groom, along with a great parade, returned to the groom's house where a feast took place, often lasting a full week.

So Why a Wedding Scene?

- Jesus was painting a picture to the listeners!
 - This is how it would be like when He returns
 - One day Jesus will return to take His people to heaven and we must be ready!
 - **We should watch for Jesus' return**
 - The bridegroom = Jesus
 - The ten virgins = the church
 - He is coming again – swift, sudden !
 - No chance then for repentance or bargaining!
 - We have a chance now to make a choice to be followers or just fans of Jesus and that is what will determine our eternal destiny.

Matthew 25:2-4

- "Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish."
- "Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them."
- "but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps."

Oil or No oil?

- The Wise and Foolish : both are Christians and both go to church!!
 - The Wise : they are prepared, always ready for the Lord
 - The Foolish : not prepared, say that they are Christians but are not ready for Jesus
 - God wants a relationship with us - Jesus should be the one and only in our Life!
- Oil = good works

Matthew 25:5-9

- "But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept."
- "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'"
- "Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps."
- "And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'"
- "But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.'"

They let the Oil run out!

- The bridegroom didn't come at the hour they expected and the oil ran out
- Why could they not borrow oil from the wise virgins?
 - Because you can not borrow good works that someone else did
- By the time they purchased some oil and came back - it was too late = the door was shut.



Five of Them Were Wise, by Walter Crane, courtesy Church History Museum

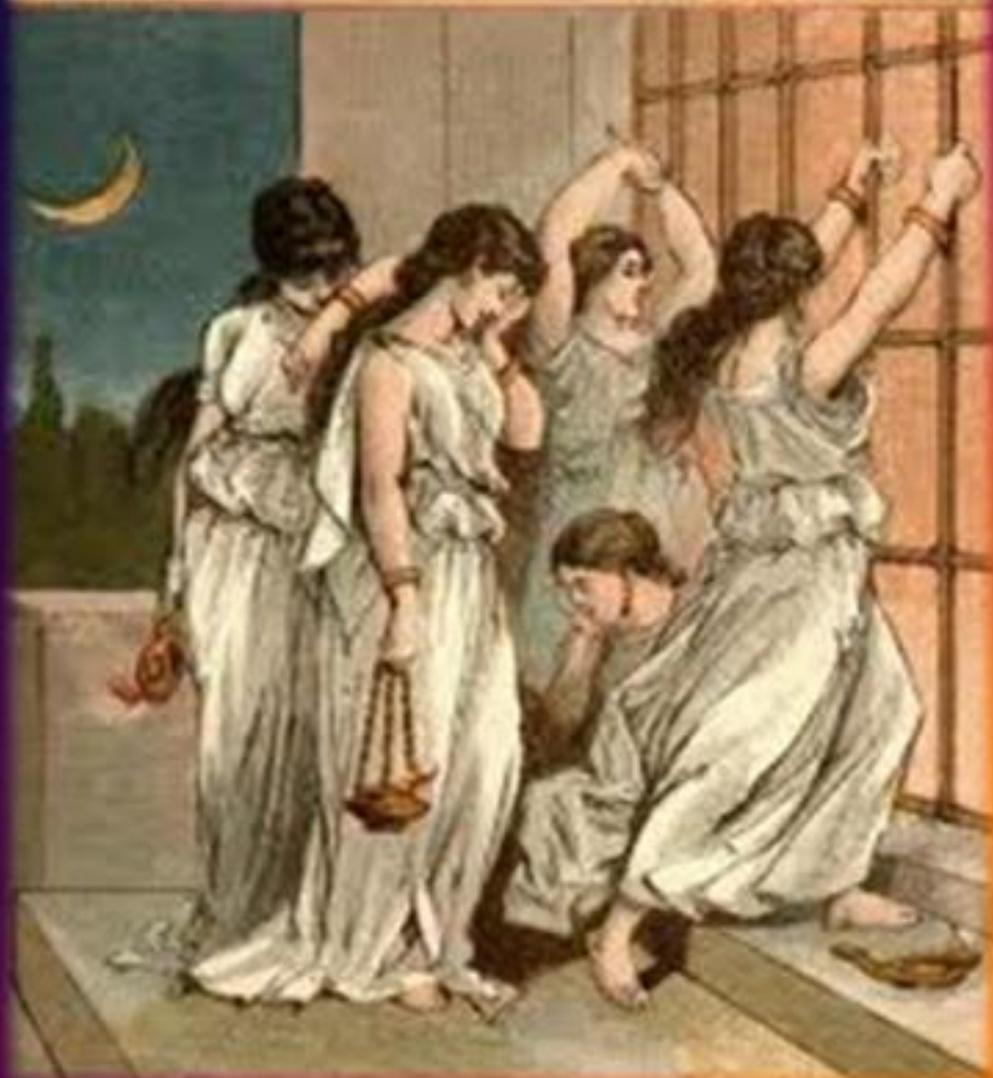
The Door was Shut

- God knows our hearts and we are responsible for our own salvation!
 - We can't rely on others to be Christians for us
- So what should we do?
 - **LIVE EACH DAY AS IF IT IS THE LAST DAY**
 - Wake up and say: Jesus is coming today I will be prepared for him
 - Go to sleep at night and say: I will sleep and wait for your coming O Lord.

Matthew 25: 10-12

- "And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut."
- "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!'"
- "But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'"

But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know
you not." St. Matthew XXV. 12



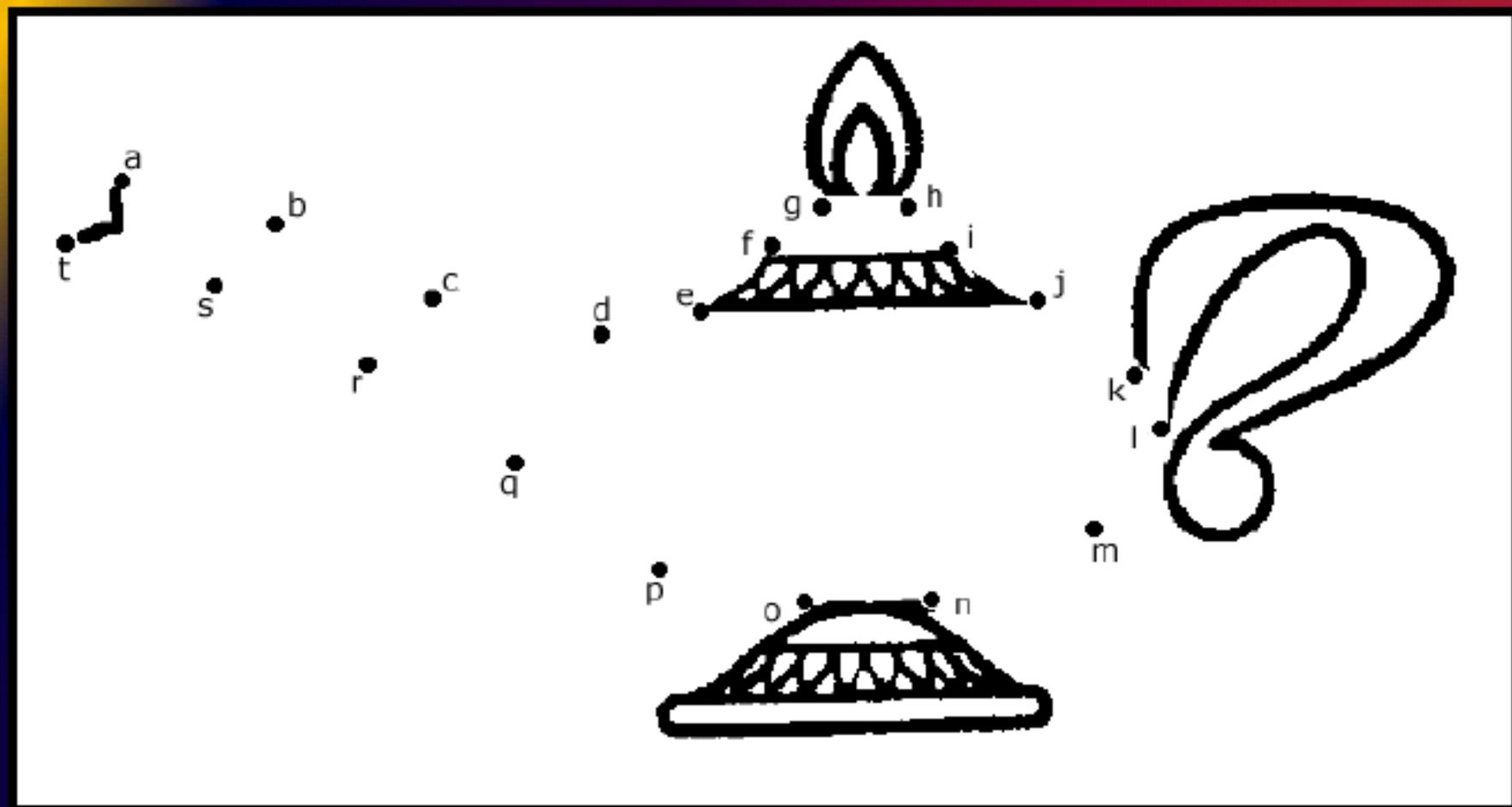
The wedding feast

- Only the wise virgins who were prepared with the oil could shine their lamps bright for the bridegroom and were able to enter into the wedding feast!
 - The Lamb with rich oil = your heart ready for Jesus
- The foolish = no Holy Spirit in their lives = a life without repentance, they don't trust Jesus to save them.

Jesus is Coming

- As a Bridegroom, He will come in great array to receive those who are His, so that they may be with Him and gaze upon His glory (John 17:24).
- Are you ready?

“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.”



Matthew 25:13

Conclusion

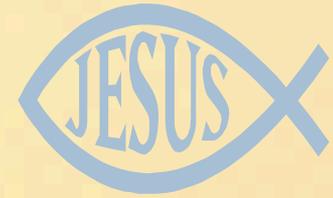
- We should always be ready to live in love with others.
- We need to always forgive others, pray always and keep remembering God for we don't know when Jesus comes.
- These are all hard things to do but we can do them with the help of our Lord Jesus.
- So always ask for His help by saying;
Lord Jesus help me to love, to forgive, to pray and to stay in your love. Amen.

Movie Clip

Show a short movie clip about the story, if available.



Pop Quiz

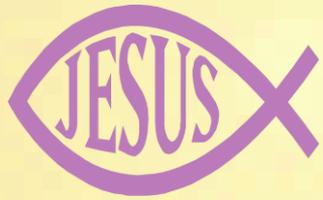


- 1. Why were five of them called wise and the others called foolish?** *Wise-had oil, foolish did not*
- 2. What did all of them do when the bridegroom was delayed?** *-They all slept*
- 3. What the cry heard at midnight?** *- The Bridegroom is here.*
- 4. Who are the wise virgins?** *-Those who are ready*
- 5. Who are the foolish virgins?** *-Those who are not ready*
- 6. What is the oil?** *- The works, spiritual life with Jesus*
- 7. Who is the bridegroom?** *Jesus Christ*

The End

Next Week

We will learn about Jesus feeds five thousand.





May the love of God the **Father** and the grace of our Lord **Jesus Christ** and the fellowship of the **Holy Spirit** be with you.

All: And with your Spirit.

Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

3 things we all can do to strengthen our relationship with God

1. Read the Holy Bible daily preferably when we get up in the morning. 5 minutes to start.
2. Partake Holy Communion regularly.
3. Remember God throughout the day. We can repeat short prayer such as “Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on me.”

JESUS CHRIST

- “For there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12)





We are one in Christ



*“And you shall know
the truth, and the
truth shall make you
free.” John 8:32*

Any question?

Close with prayer.

