



# SERMON GUIDES

Talking through the message during the week helps you and your group turn what God is saying to you into action steps. Begin with the key questions, add in any optional scriptures and questions if needed, then wrap up by deciding on your next steps.

Visit [woodlakeumc.org/sermonessentials](http://woodlakeumc.org/sermonessentials) for weekly sermon guides, devotionals, and more or if you have questions, contact [Jill Perrin at jperrin@woodlakeumc.org](mailto:jperrin@woodlakeumc.org).

## Parables of Matthew | WEEK #6

01.

### INTRODUCTION

We continue our sermon series this week on the parables of Jesus in Matthew chapter 25 with a focus on the parable of the “Bridesmaids” and how this relates to the life we are living NOW.

02.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Matthew 25:1-13 and discuss the significance of both the bridesmaids that had enough oil versus those that did not come prepared.
  - a. What is the parable trying to tell us about how we should live our lives?
2. Pastor Gordon discusses a great deal about his love for weddings and why with an emphasis the punctuality of weddings. Very rarely are people late to weddings.
  - a. Why is it important to be on time for a wedding?
  - b. What does the parable tell us about the consequences of being late or not being prepared?
3. Similar to the bridesmaids, the Israelites had been waiting for the Messiah to defeat evil and bring goodness back into the world.
  - a. Describe the similarities between the bridesmaids in this parable and the Israelites?
  - b. How did Jesus respond in each of their lives? Was it in a way they were expecting? Explain.
4. The parable discusses how the bridesmaids were told to go get their own oil instead of borrowing from those that were prepared.
  - a. Did the bridesmaids have any chance of buying more oil at midnight?
  - b. How does this relate to spiritual preparedness in our lives?
  - c. Who is responsible for our spiritual preparation?
5. Pastor Gordon discusses the ways in which Jesus speaks to us. In the parable, Jesus speaks loudly to the unprepared bridesmaids.
  - a. Why do you think Jesus speaks in this way to the bridesmaids?
  - b. What times in your life has Jesus spoken to you in a similar way?



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6. The overarching theme of today's parable is preparedness. Time moves forward and we do not get another chance once it passes by. You do not automatically have a tomorrow, you only have today. How you live your life matters NOW.
  - a. Do you live your life with a daily focus on readiness and urgency?
  - b. If not, what have you been putting off for another day that you can start NOW?

03.

## NEXT STEPS

1. How are you living NOW?
2. What are you putting off for another day?
3. Join the party!