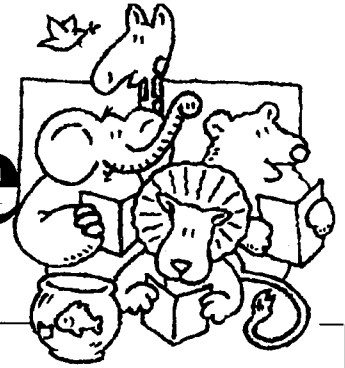


# SKY

Learning to Trust God  
Series 3—Lesson 6

## StoryTime



### It's Dark in Here, Light the Lamp

#### Primary 3-7

#### Bible Text:

Matthew 25:1-13

#### Lesson Aim:

To teach children that wisdom comes from *learning* and *doing*. Just to **KNOW** right from wrong means nothing unless we do the right thing.

#### Memory Verse:

"For You will light my lamp;  
the Lord my God will  
enlighten my darkness"  
(Psalm 18:28).

#### Words to Learn:

- Wise
- Foolish

#### Always Close in Prayer

### The Teacher's Bible Study

**G**od is the **ULTIMATE** authority on humankind, for He is our Maker. He knows what will make us happy and productive, and what will make us morose and unfruitful. Teaching children how to acquire and use the wisdom found in the written Word of God is a skill they will always need. Encourage your children to develop a God-centered life. This begins by doing what you are doing now—sharing a story from the pages of His Word. It is wise indeed to teach them to have reverence for the Bible as God's Word. It is the most valuable gift you can **EVER** give a child, for the influence of its priceless knowledge is for eternity (Matthew 6:19,20).

Begin by reading the Proverbs together. These little "Reader's Digest" nuggets are short, but the seeds of wisdom are there. Young children love to **LEARN!** Read a proverb to them, ask them what they think it means, then discuss it. The Bible is a vast library.

#### I Hear Wisdom Calling

In the Bible, wisdom means learning, common sense, and good judgment. In Exodus 28:3 we read of artists, builders, and those that make clothes being given the spirit of wisdom—you can learn wisdom. In the book of Proverbs, wisdom is applied to many different situations such as: telling the truth, friendship, work, and rearing children. Proverbs 8 describes wisdom as a woman calling people to listen to her and live.

The Old Testament books of Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes are collectively known as the books of wisdom. When King Solomon began his reign as King, he asked God for wisdom and God gladly gave it to him (1 Kings 3:9-14; 10:23,24). It is said in Job 28:20-28 that God is **THE SOURCE OF WISDOM**.

Following the commands of God is a sign of *wisdom*. In the New Testament, Christians are told that if they lack *wisdom*, ask God for it (James 1:5). Paul wrote that "Christ is the power of God and the wis-

dom of God" (1 Corinthians 1:24). Find Christ and there is "hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3).

Wisdom calls for knowing right from wrong, and DOING right. Knowledge without action doesn't mean a thing. In fact, when we KNOW to do good and refuse to do it, we are put in the category of "the foolish."

And what happens to the foolish?

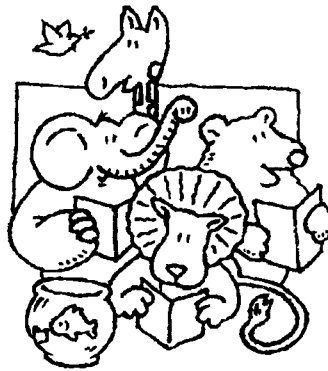
### It Isn't Wise to Be Foolish

The parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25 is used to remind us to be ready to go with Christ when He comes. Are we prepared to go the distance?

Notice they were all invited to the wedding supper, all had lamps, all even had oil. Five showed the commitment to be ready no matter how late the bridegroom was in arriving—they carried along enough to last throughout the darkness. Five didn't give much thought to the invitation—they didn't bring enough to last through the night, in case it was needed. All were responsible for their own light.

Now is the time to ask God for His wisdom. Now is the time to prepare for the return of Jesus Christ. We are to learn right from wrong in the Word of God, and do what is right. We know that Jesus said He was coming back for us and we can know that He will. □

## Simple as 1,2,3...



### 1. Additional Reading for Teacher Study

Isaiah 52:1-12; Luke 12:22-34; Psalm 18:28-30; 19:12, 13

### 2. Are You Listening?

After you read or tell the story you may ask the following questions:

1. *True or false:* All of the young women had received an invitation to the great wedding of the good king—*TRUE*
2. *True or false:* The five wise young women made sure they would have enough oil to last through the night—*TRUE*
3. *True or False:* Each woman was responsible for her lamp—*TRUE*
4. *True or false:* As each hour passed the foolish women continued to believe the king was coming—*FALSE*
5. *True or false:* If you know what is right and what is wrong, and do what is *wrong* anyway, you are like the foolish women—*TRUE*
6. *True or false:* Our story is about the coming of the good king, and our Savior, Jesus—*TRUE*
7. *True or false:* Jesus wants us to be waiting for Him with oil in our lamps no matter how long it takes.—*TRUE*
8. *True or false:* God can make good things happen when it looks pretty bad to us—*TRUE*

### 3. Word Definitions

These definitions were taken from *Webster's New World Dictionary*.

- **Wise**—knowing to do what is true and right
- **Foolish**—showing a lack of sense; lacks caution or forethought

# SKY Story Time

## It's Dark in Here, Light the Lamp

The dim light of early morning touched the sleeping figures of ten young women that lay on comfortable-looking cots. The light of the sun had begun to warm the air and a soft breeze moved lazily through the bedroom windows. The air carried the sounds and smells of the early morning: birds, breakfast being cooked, and the quiet voices of those already up and about.

One by one the young women came awake: stretching, yawning, and sitting up.

The young women had stayed up late the night before, each preparing in her own way for THIS wonderful day. The Bridegroom was on His way...

A special letter had been sent, quite a while ago, inviting them to the wedding of the very powerful, good, and wise king. The letter had said the king was returning to his kingdom from a far country and his invited guests could travel along with the wedding party to the great golden city for the king's wedding.

What a great honor to travel with the king! He had been away for such a very long time. It was wonderful news to hear that he was coming home!

All the people in his kingdom loved him and looked forward to seeing him, for he was a very good king. They knew he was coming, but not exactly the HOUR he would come. The letter just said to be looking for him.

### Give Me Five!

Now five of the young women were wise. They were willing workers, and had worked very hard to learn their jobs. They were kind, and enjoyed helping people because they too remembered the kindness of others at a time when they needed help. They were very thankful for a chance to share their good fortune. They were very happy for the good king and were looking forward to celebrating his wedding.

Sadly, five of the young women were rather foolish. They would never volunteer to help with work. They liked to play silly games and to sit around talking and gossiping. They found helping other people just too much trouble. They had forgotten they had been given food when they were hungry, a coat when they were cold, and medicine when they were sick.

Yes, they were very foolish and ungrateful girls.

### What Do You See?

In the golden light of the setting sun they sat at the front gate waiting, looking down the long road toward the hills. They could see for several miles in the daylight. However, the good king still had not arrived. As the light of the sunset turned to dusk they each went and picked up a little lamp.

They would need the lamps to signal the king's wedding party that there were people at this house

waiting for the king.

Each young woman was to be responsible for her own lantern. The little lamps only held a few spoonfuls of oil to burn. If the lamp was to burn for very long you would need to have a reserve of oil. Five of the wise young women did this. They wanted to make sure that they would have enough oil for their lamps to burn and be seen.

The five foolish young women heard the slosh of oil in their lamps. They knew the lamps would burn for several hours when filled. That should be enough!

They even complained that they were getting tired of waiting, and had sure went to a lot of trouble to get ready and then have to sit around and wait! In fact they thought it was pretty inconsiderate.

The dark of the oncoming night settled as they lit the little lamps. The girls talked among themselves for a while in the soft glow of the lamp light. All of the young women began to get sleepy. But before going to sleep each wise woman added more oil to her lamp. The foolish girls figured the bridegroom king wasn't coming that night, besides it was getting too late for a party! They fell quickly asleep.

The household became silent and the lamps began to burn lower and lower, and lower as their oil supply was being used. The light grew weaker, and weaker still.

Suddenly from out of the still night they heard the sound of a horn blast, running horses' hooves, and a voice crying, "Behold, the bridegroom is coming! Go out to meet Him!" Jumping up and grabbing their lanterns, the five foolish saw their sputtering lamps and

started to cry out to the five wise young women, "Give us some of your oil!" The wise girls replied, "No, we can't. There isn't time! Our lamps may not have enough for us AND you. Go quickly to those who sell lamp oil. Hurry!"

They weren't fast enough. The five wise women left for the wedding feast with the king and the foolish were not allowed to enter into the wedding feast. They had lacked the faith to wait patiently, and shine their light for the good king.

Let's read the invitation. It says, "And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let him who hears say 'Come!' And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take of the water of life freely" (Revelation 22:17).

God says "Come!" □

## Crafty Idea

Remove label from the can. Draw a pattern for the lantern holes with a marker. Fill the can with water and freeze for two days. When the water is frozen solid, place the can on its side on top of a folded towel, and use the nail tips to hammer in holes according to your design.

*Adult:* Remove the ice (hammered holes will have sharp edges) Screw the hook into the end of the dowel. Create a handle for the can from a wire coat hanger and hook through holes at top of the can.

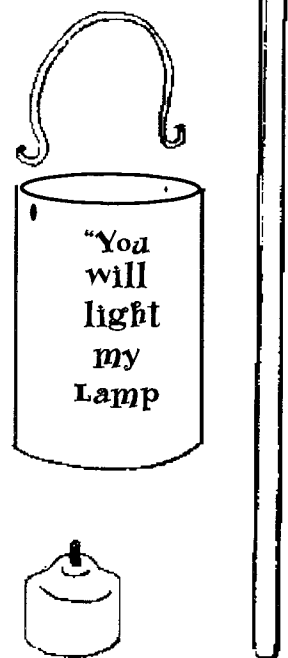
Carefully melt a bit of wax into the bottom of the can. Fix the candle inside.

Use a match to light the spaghetti noodle and light the votive candle within the can.

# Crafty Ideas

## Light My Lamp

Psalm 18:28



### Materials To Use:

- Large tin can
- Markers
- Votive candle
- Hammer
- Nails
- Screw-in hook
- 20" wooden dowel
- Coat hanger or wire
- Spaghetti noodle