



Big Idea

Only those who are ready for Jesus' return will enjoy the party in heaven.



Faith in Kids looks like

Children who trust and obey Jesus now because they are excited and ready for him to come back.

You will need: 2 large sheets of paper for the 'wise' and 'foolish' visuals, thick marker pen, Blu Tack, large party invitation visual, party poppers and a party hat.

Set up in advance:

- Foolish visual - on one large sheet of paper write 'foolish' at the top and draw 5 stick figures. Halfway down write 'Not ready for Jesus = ' on the page.
- Wise visual - write 'wise' at the top and draw 5 stick figures. Leave a space to draw the oil jars below the figures, then write 'Ready for Jesus = ' on the page.
- Invitation - Make a large colourful party invitation with 'JESUS invites EVERYONE to the GREATEST PARTY EVER in HEAVEN' on it. Write 'Date:?' and 'Time:?' on it.

Powerpoint slides: 2 talk points.

Space for notes

It is X number of sleeps until (summer holidays/my birthday/Christmas etc.). When we know something is coming, we get ready. We plan the party, we book our

Space for notes

holidays or we put up the Christmas tree. We get ready for the celebrations.

Today's story is a parable about being ready. Remember that a parable is a story made up by Jesus to teach us something really important.

Today's it's all about being ready for the most important day ever - when Jesus comes back. When he returns, he will take his friends to the greatest party ever in heaven! But if we aren't ready then we will miss out. Jesus told this parable so we'd know how important it is to be ready for when he comes back.

When Jesus was still on earth, weddings were a bit different to how they are now. The man who was getting married - the bridegroom - would go away for a bit after he'd asked the lady to marry him. When he came back, he'd go to her house to fetch her and her friends. They'd then go on a festive march with lamps to the wedding party. So, it was important for the ladies to be ready with their lamps or they'd miss out on the celebration. That's why the lamps are a big deal in the story we are going to hear.

Let's hear the story...

'At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten girls who went to wait for the bridegroom. They took their lamps with them. Five of the girls were foolish and five were wise.'

(Stick up the 'foolish' and 'wise' sheets of paper.)

'The five foolish girls took their lamps, but they did not take more oil for the lamps to burn. The wise girls took their lamps and more oil in jars.'

(Draw 5 jars on the 'wise' sheet of paper.)

'The bridegroom was very late. All the girls became sleepy and went to sleep.'



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for notes**

'At midnight someone cried out, "The bridegroom is coming! Come and meet him!" Then all the girls woke up and got their lamps ready. But the foolish girls said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil. Our lamps are going out." The wise girls answered, "No! The oil we have might not be enough for all of us. Go to the people who sell oil and buy some for yourselves."

'So the five foolish girls went to buy oil. While they were gone, the bridegroom came. The girls who were ready went in with the bridegroom to the wedding feast. Then the door was closed and locked.'

The wise girls got to enjoy the party. **(Write 'Party!' on the 'wise' sheet. Stick a party hat to it and let off a party popper.)**

'Later the others came back. They called, "Sir, sir, open the door to let us in." But the bridegroom answered, "I tell you the truth, I don't know you."

The foolish girls were locked out of the party. **(Write 'Locked out' and draw a sad face on the 'foolish' sheet.)**

Listen carefully to the end of the story...

'So always be ready. You don't know the day or the time the Son of Man will come.'

Jesus is the Son of Man. He told this story because he is coming back. But, we don't know when that will happen.

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for notes**

1. Jesus is coming back but we don't know when

(Slide of talk point)

This story is like a picture of us waiting for Jesus to come back. In the story, the girls waited for the bridegroom. In real life, we're waiting for Jesus. The girls didn't know what time the bridegroom would come back. So they sat and they waited. It got so late that they started to fall asleep. But he finally arrived. And then, it was time to celebrate!

It's the same for us - we don't know when Jesus will come back. He went away for a while, back to heaven, and he's been gone for over 2000 years. That's a long time! But, one day he will come back. We just don't know when that will be.

It's like he's given us an invitation to a party but left out some of the information. **(Hold up party invitation.)**

It's Jesus' party. We're all invited. It's going to be the greatest party ever. It's in heaven.

The party is planned, but Jesus left out the date and time. We don't know when it will happen - it will be a surprise. That's why Jesus says we must be ready.

2. Jesus is coming back so we need to be ready

(Slide of talk point)

There were 2 types of girls in the story - wise and foolish. The wise girls were ready for the bridegroom to come back. They'd packed extra oil so their lamps wouldn't go out.



**Space
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How does it feel when you have only 1 more sleep until your birthday or Christmas? **(Take answers.)**

That's how the girls felt when they heard the bridegroom was coming. He arrived and they were ready for him. He welcomed them into his party. Jesus has invited us to a party that we don't want to miss out on! **(Hold up party invitation.)**

Maybe you're thinking, 'But what does it mean to be ready and waiting for Jesus? Do I need to go and buy an oil lamp?'

It's got nothing to do with having oil lamps but everything to do with having Jesus in our lives. Being ready for Jesus means being his friend. **(Write 'being his friend' to finish the sentence 'Ready for Jesus =' on the 'wise' sheet.)**

Following Jesus, being his friend and having him in our lives means...

- we have a relationship with him. Just like with a parent or a friend, you can get to know Jesus and talk to him. We talk to him when we are praying.
- we get to know him better. The Bible tells us what he is like and what he said.
- we hear and do what he says and live his way because it's best.
- we follow him because we know only he can save us. Even if it means missing out or being teased.

Being ready means saying 'Yes!' to his party invitation - telling Jesus that we want to be his friend and follow him. And when he comes back, he will welcome us into his party as friends. **(Hold up party invitation.)**

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The foolish girls weren't ready. They had their lamps but didn't take extra oil. They had to go and buy more. When they got back the door to the party was closed and locked.

'They called, "Sir, sir, open the door to let us in." But the bridegroom answered, "I tell you the truth, I don't know you."' (Matthew 25:11-12)

How do you think they felt to be shut out of the party? **(Take answers.)**

Missing out on Jesus' party will feel worse than that. But if we aren't ready for Jesus, we will be shut out of his party too. The bridegroom said he didn't know the foolish girls. People who aren't ready for Jesus are people who don't know him - and they aren't known by him.

If you aren't a friend of Jesus then you aren't ready for him to come back. **(Write 'not his friend' to finish the sentence 'Not ready for Jesus =' on the 'foolish' sheet.)**

We can know a lot about Jesus and even go to church but that doesn't mean we love and trust him.

Imagine you had a penpal in another country. A penpal is someone you write letters to about your life and they write back. Imagine you told them all about your family, where you live and all your favourite things. You wrote lots of letters and kept sending them for many years. But you never got a letter back.

If you met that person, they could say, 'I read all your letters, I know so much about you!'

But you would say, 'I don't know you. You never shared any of your life with me.'



**Space
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We can know a lot about Jesus. But if we don't share our lives with him, then he will say, 'I don't know you.' It will be too late. We won't be welcomed into his forever party - we will be shut out as strangers. He invited us but we never replied to his invitation. **(Hold up party invitation.)**

We're waiting for Jesus to come back. If we're wise, we'll be ready for him. We'll have a relationship with Jesus - we will know him, trust him and share our lives with him because he is our friend and our king. When he comes back, he will take us to the greatest party ever. **(Set off a party popper.)**

If we're foolish and aren't ready for him - if we aren't friends with him now - then it will be too late when he comes back. We won't have time to make friends with Jesus on that day. We'll be locked out of the greatest party forever.

We don't know how many more sleeps until Jesus comes back. So, be ready - reply 'Yes!' to his invitation and enjoy being his friend now. **(Hold up party invitation.)**

Then, every day we can say we are one day closer to enjoying the greatest party ever!

Pray to close.

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'All for the glory of God alone' (1 Corinthians 10:31)



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Discussion Time

Talk 10: Jesus is coming back!
(Matthew 25:1-13)



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Did you spot it?

1. Who were the girls waiting for?
2. What was the difference between the 2 groups of girls?



Work it out.

1. Who are we waiting for?
2. What does it mean to be 'ready for Jesus'?
3. What will Jesus say to people who aren't ready for him? Why?



Live it Out.

1. Are you ready for Jesus to come back? Why?
2. What makes it hard to wait for Jesus to come back? Why?



Pray.



Night of Sportiness

These activities are all best suited to being done outdoors but suggestions have been made for doing them indoors if necessary.

Space Hopper Relay


You will need: Space hoppers, pump, cones, buckets, water, cups and a measuring tape.

Set up: Use the pump to inflate the space hoppers. Mark a start and finish line with the cones. Place a bucket of water at the start line and an empty bucket at the finish line.

- The aim is to carry water to the empty bucket while bouncing on a space hopper.
- Divide the group evenly between the space hoppers.
- A child from each group fills a cup with water before bouncing to the finish line. They empty the water into the bucket before bouncing back to their group to swap with another child.

- At the end of the game, use the measuring tape to measure the amount of water in the bucket at the finish line.
- If playing indoors, replace the water with something dry like pasta shells. Sweep up dropped pasta between teams.

Scoring: Allocate points in order of most to least water in the bucket.

Safety: Have different sizes of space hoppers so children can use the one best suited to their size - they will be less likely to fall off the correct size hopper. 

Tie Dye


You will need: Plain white T-shirts (in varying sizes)/tote bags, elastic bands, clothes dye, squirty bottles, disposable gloves, clingfilm, permanent marker, tarpaulin and a bucket of water.

Set up: If possible, do this activity outside on grass/tarmac that won't be ruined if dye gets on it. Alternatively, place the tarpaulin on the floor. Mix the dye and pour into the squirty bottles. Measure out the dye so there is enough for each group.

- The aim is to dye a pattern on the T-shirt/tote bag.
- Give each child a T-shirt/tote bag, elastic bands and disposable gloves. Wear the gloves while using the dye.
- They must wet the fabric in the bucket of water and squeeze out excess water. Wet fabric will absorb the colours more. The fabric can then be tied up with the elastic bands.
- Spiral technique: lay the T-shirt/tote flat, pinch the fabric in the centre and twist in a circle until all the fabric has been twisted into a

- spiral. Secure it with elastic bands.
- Crumple technique: lay the T-shirt/tote flat, use both hands to scrunch the fabric together from the centre. When it's all scrunched together, secure it with elastic bands.
- Squirt different colours onto different sections of the tied up fabric - use the sections created by the elastic bands as guides. Squeeze dye into the folds of fabric. Use small amounts of dye and build up to get a stronger colour.
- Once dyed, wrap the fabric in clingfilm. Use the permanent marker to write names on the clingfilm.
- Children can take their T-shirt/tote bag home at the end of the session. Fabric must be left wrapped in clingfilm for 4-6 hours. Rinse until the water runs clear before putting it in the washing machine for a normal wash.

Scoring: No scores for this activity.

Safety: Gloves to be worn in case of sensitive skin reacting to the dye. 



Soaking Sponge Shot Put

You will need: Large sponge, large plastic bucket, plastic cones and a tarpaulin.

Set up: If played indoors then place the tarpaulin on the floor (or play the game without water - use a lightweight ball instead of the wet sponge.). Use a cone to mark a starting/throwing point. Place cones in a line, 3 metres from that point. Fill the bucket with water and place it near the starting mark.

- The aim is to throw a wet sponge at your team members to earn points.
- Choose a child to be the thrower - they stand near the bucket.
- The rest of the team stand in a grid behind the line of cones. Leave about 0.5-1 metre between the children. The children must face away from the thrower.
- The thrower soaks the sponge in the water before throwing it, shot put style, at their team members.
- If a team member is hit, it counts as a point and they swap places with the thrower. If it's a miss

then the thrower goes again until a member is hit.

- Keep it active by rearranging the children in the grid - get different rows to swap places etc.
- If the same children keep getting hit then choose a child to swap with the thrower so they all get a chance to throw.
- If 3 metres is too far for the children to throw then reduce the distance, but ensure that the gap is large enough that the impact of the sponge isn't hard when a child is hit
- For a messier version, squirt shaving foam on the sponge instead of soaking it in water.

Scoring: Allocate points for every time a child is hit with the sponge.

Safety: No running on a wet tarpaulin. Children must face away from the thrower so they are not hit in the face.



Balloon and Spoon Race

You will need: Large spoons, lots of water balloons, buckets and cones.

Set up: Use the cones to mark a start and finish line - leave a good distance between them. Fill the water balloons and divide them so you have a full bucket for each team. Have an extra bucket that remains empty. Place the buckets of balloons at the starting line and the empty bucket at the finish line.

- The aim is to transfer water balloons from one bucket to another by carrying them on a spoon.
- Depending on the number of children and balloons you have, divide the team into pairs or groups of 3.
- The children place a balloon on the spoon, walk/run to the bucket at the finish line where they deposit the balloon. They then run back to the start and their partner/another child in their group has a turn.

- If the balloon drops and doesn't pop they can pick it up and carry on. If it drops and pops, they run back to their partner/group and swap over.
- Count the number of balloons in the bucket at the finish line so you can give a score.
- Indoor option: Use tennis racquets and inflated balloons instead of the spoons and water balloons. Play in the same way or have the child walk to the 'finish line' and back before swapping over. This version can also be played outside but a windy day will make it very tricky!

Scoring: Allocate points for each water balloon that didn't pop.

Safety: To avoid collisions, children running back to the starting point must not run in the playing area.





Doughnut Dangle

Grand Finale Game Suggestion

You will need: String, scissors, mini doughnuts and a plastic tablecloth.

Set up: Tie string to the doughnuts (enough for each child in the 2 teams). Cut two long pieces of string – one for each team. Tie the free end of each doughnut string to the long piece. Leave a 50cm gap between each one. Place the tablecloth on the floor, make sure it is clean and then lay the 2 strings of doughnuts on the tablecloth.

- The aim is to be the first team to finish eating their doughnuts without using their hands.
- 4 leaders are needed to hold the ends of the long pieces of string so the doughnuts are hanging in the air.
- The 2 teams kneel down with their hands behind their backs spaced out below the doughnuts. Leaders hold the long strings so that the doughnuts are at mouth height.

- Once you have given the instruction to start, children eat their doughnuts – no hands allowed. If a doughnut falls onto the tablecloth they can continue to eat it but hands cannot be used.
- When the doughnut is completely finished (swallowed – not still chewing!), the child stands up and leaves the playing space.

Scoring: The first team to finish wins.

Safety: Check for food allergies before playing – if possible have substitutes available.



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