

YEAR A

32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

HE IS HERE

VISUAL AIDS

- > Pictures of weddings.
- > Two torches, one with batteries, one without.
- > Lamp shape cut-outs.

WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

Say/sing together:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Receive the light of Christ.
Keep it burning brightly.
Alleluia!

A reading from the Good News
given to us by Matthew.
Glory to you, Lord.

Jesus said:
'The kingdom of heaven is like this.
Ten bridesmaids took their lamps
and went out to meet the bride-
groom. Five of the bridesmaids took
extra oil with them, but the other five
took only their lamps.
The bridegroom was late, very late.

DISCUSSION

A lamp without oil is like torches
without batteries.
Show the torches.

The bridesmaids had been chosen for
an important task:
what was it?
why did they need their lamps?

When we were baptised we too
were given a light and asked to keep
it burning brightly.
How do we keep the light of Christ
burning brightly in our lives?
How might we let the light go out?

Play soft music, during which the
children can pray quietly for the
strength never to get tired of waiting
for Jesus.

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SHARING

Encourage the children to share their memories and experiences of preparing for a wedding, or some other big event.

Share experiences of meeting people. Talk about the preparations that are needed:

- meeting place, time, delays, waiting, transport, etc.

As it grew darker, the bridesmaids fell asleep. At midnight someone called out

"The bridegroom is here! Go out to meet him!" By now the bridesmaids' lamps had run out of oil. The five wise bridesmaids fixed their lamps with the spare oil they had brought. The five foolish bridesmaids asked the others for some of their spare oil. But they replied

"No, because we wouldn't have enough to light the way for the bridegroom. Go and buy some for yourselves." The five foolish ones went off to buy more oil, but while they were away, the bridegroom arrived. The wise bridesmaids went with him to the wedding, but the foolish ones missed it.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

ACTIVITIES

- > Give out the lamp shape cut-outs.
- > On them have the children write or draw:
 - how they will wait for Jesus in the coming week;
 - or how he might come into their lives each day;
 - or how they will be ready to welcome him.

