

Beyond Sunday

6.21.2026

Ready for the Bridegroom — *Matthew 25:1-13* — Mark Turney

Gather

These questions help build connections with others as you share personal experiences.

1. Share about a time you were late and missed out on something important. What happened, and what did you learn from the experience?
2. Have you ever waited a long time for something you were excited about—a trip, graduation, wedding, new job, answered prayer, etc.? What was difficult about the waiting?

Grow

These questions guide your group through Scripture from Sunday's sermon, helping us better understand God's Word and His work in our lives.

Read Matthew 25:1-13

- 1. What stands out to you about the similarities between the ten virgins?**
 - What did all ten have in common?
 - Why do you think Jesus intentionally made the two groups appear so similar?
 - What does this teach us about outward appearances and spiritual readiness?
- 2. The bridegroom's delay plays a central role in the story. Why is the delay significant?**
 - What does the delay represent in Jesus' parable?
 - Why do you think waiting can be one of the greatest tests of faith?
 - How have you seen people (or yourself) struggle spiritually during seasons of waiting?
- 3. Jesus concludes with the warning: "Keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour" (v. 13).**
 - What do you think it means to "keep watch"?
 - What are some unhealthy ways Christians have interpreted this command?
 - According to the sermon, what does genuine readiness look like?

4. Read Revelation 22:20 and 1 Thessalonians 5:4-11.

- What attitudes and behaviors do these passages encourage in believers?
- How does the hope of Jesus' return affect the way we live today?
- Why do you think Paul emphasizes faith, love, and hope rather than fear?

5. The bridegroom tells the foolish virgins, "I don't know you."

- Why is this one of the most sobering moments in the parable?
- How is knowing Jesus different from simply knowing about Jesus?
- What evidence of a genuine relationship with Christ did the sermon highlight?

Give / Go

These questions help us apply the sermon's takeaways and consider how God is calling us to respond.

1. The central question of this parable is not, "Have I done religious things?" but "Do I know the Bridegroom?" As you reflect on your current season of life, how would you describe your relationship with Jesus right now?
2. What is one practical step you can take this week to intentionally deepen your relationship with Christ?
3. How would your daily decisions change if you lived with a greater awareness that Jesus could return at any time?

Prayer

Prayer Direction:

Spend time thanking Jesus not only for the gift of salvation, but for inviting us into a relationship with Him. Pray that God would help us remain faithful during seasons of waiting and deepen our desire to know Christ personally.

Going Deeper

Video

- Parables of Jesus by the Bible Project: <https://bibleproject.com/videos/how-to-read-the-bible-the-parables-of-jesus/>

Article

- Prayers for those who Wait: <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/five-prayers-for-those-who-wait>

Practice

. Daily Examen

At the end of each day, spend five minutes asking:

- ◆ Where did I notice God's presence today?
- ◆ Where did I drift from Him?
- ◆ How can I respond to His invitation tomorrow?