



Tell me the stories of Jesus

Small group questions

The parable of the 10 virgins – Matthew 25:1-13

Leaders – if the questions make no sense or you don't know the answer – please contact the preacher!

1. Did anything stand out for you in the message? Any new insights?
2. How do we know that this parable especially targets professing Christians?
3. Does it have any implications for those who don't even claim to be Christians?
4. Given that 52% of Australians identify themselves as "Christian", what does "Christian" mean in our culture?

The critical hour

5. Why is the first word of this parable ("*then*" or "*at that time*") so important?
6. '*To criticise the wise virgins for not sharing their oil is to miss the whole point of the parable*'. Discuss.

The critical failure

7. In the parable, precisely *what* was the critical failure of the fools?
8. In the Bible's 'big picture', what preparation is essential for anyone to enter the wedding banquet with the bridegroom (Jesus)? See John 3:3-7 and 6:65.
9. Were the fools, at any time, properly prepared to meet the bridegroom? Either way, significant theological implications follow... can you identify them?
10. Trying to predict the time of Christ's return is foolish ... why? See Matthew 24:37-51.

The critical question

11. What makes this parable so disturbing?
12. How can it be 'loving' to disturb well-intentioned people?
13. If we understand this parable, what issue is forced upon all of us? See 2 Corinthians 13:5.
14. Discuss ... *At best, our generation has a distorted view of Jesus (a harmless, manageable, 'gentle Jesus meek and mild') ... it desperately needs to understand him as King of kings and Lord of Lords, the strict and impartial judge of every human being.*