

NOVEMBER 8, 2020



Children's Message

PREPARE • LECTIONARY 32

SEASON AFTER PENTECOST • YEAR A

TODAY'S READINGS

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 📖 • Amos 5:18-24 📖 • Psalm 78:1-7 📖 • Psalm 70 📖

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 • **Matthew 25:1-13**

Select one of these options to create a children's message to fit kids' interests and gifts and your congregation's size and sanctuary features. You can finish your time together with the prayer.

READ THE STORY

Place a bookmark on page 262 in the Whirl Story Bible. Read the story. The wedding in the story has a bride, bridesmaids, and a groom. Ask about the kids' experience at weddings. Who was a part of the weddings they attended? Remark on the beautiful clothes the bride and groom in this story are wearing and ask kids about what they have seen at weddings. Notice how five bridesmaids are being diligent in their preparations and five are not. How would the kids get ready for a wedding?

WONDER ABOUT THE STORY

Bring in an oil lamp and demonstrate how it works. Many places in the world still use versions of oil lamps as their primary source of light in the darkness. What happens if the oil runs out? What would you need to do to take care of an oil lamp so it lights when needed?

SEE THE STORY

If you use oil-filled candles in your worship space, demonstrate how those work. Why do we light candles in worship? Are there any special candles in your worship space? Do any of the kids have special candles at home? When do they light them? How do they feel when they are in candlelight?

WITNESS THE STORY

Advent is coming and we will soon be preparing. Interview a member of the altar guild about the preparations they are making for Advent. What kind of work has to be done to have the sanctuary and church ready for Advent? Can they demonstrate how the paraments are hung and how they are cared for? What kinds of things might be done at home to prepare for Advent?

ENTER THE OLD TESTAMENT STORIES

If you're reading Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 today . . . Do a dramatic reading and give the kids/congregation the refrain "We will serve the Lord!" Establish a cue for their line, such as raising a fist in the air. Practice a couple of times before you read.

If you're reading Amos 5:18-24 today . . . Bring rolls of blue crepe paper. Show how it rolls out in dramatic fashion but cannot roll back up right away. *That's* how God wants justice and righteousness to roll out in our world—dramatically—and in such a way that it can't easily roll back up!

WONDER ABOUT THE SEASON

Sing "This Little Light of Mine" together. Encourage the whole congregation to join in.

Use one or both of these alternate verses:

Let the lamp run out of oil?
(shake head no while singing)
I'm going to keep it filled! (x3)

Be prepared for anything!
(shake head yes while singing)
I'm going to watch and wait! (x3)

PRAYER

Gather around the Christ Candle. Dim the lights, if possible. Tell the kids this candle stands for the light of Christ—the light of the world. Hold hands and give thanks for the light of Christ in our world.

