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**Day 1**

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| **Faith Fact**  Jesus wants me to be ready.  **Faith Verse**  1 Corinthians 2:9 (NLT)  “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.”  **Question of the Day: Did you ever forget to prepare for something important?** |

**Read about It**

**Read:** Matthew 25:1–13

God wants us to do things to prepare for when Jesus comes back. It may seem like Jesus is taking a long time to return, just like the bridegroom took a long time to show up in today’s Bible story. Half of the bridesmaids were prepared, and half were not. The ones who weren’t prepared couldn’t go to the feast because they were still getting ready.

Jesus told us this story so we would not be like that. Even when it feels like we’re waiting a long time for Jesus to come back, we can still be ready. We can be ready by having a relationship with God and growing closer to Him. We do that by reading our Bible, talking to and listening to God, and going to church. And we do all that to know God and tell others about Him so they can know Him too! That way they will be ready when Jesus comes back to take us to be with Him forever.

**Talk about It**

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| **Question 1.** Why were the five bridesmaids foolish?  **Answer 1.** They didn’t take enough oil for their lamps. (Matthew 25:3) |
| **Question 2.** What happened when the foolish bridesmaids left to buy more oil?  **Answer 2.** The bridegroom came, and they missed him. |
| **Question 3.** Are you ready for when Jesus returns?  **Answer 3.** Answers may vary. |
| **Question 4.** What does Jesus say about the day or hour of His return?  **Answer 4.** No one knows when it will happen. (Matthew 25:13) |
| **Question 5.** What can you do to prepare for Jesus’ return?  **Answer 5.** Answers may vary but could include spend time with other Christians, read the Bible, and pray. |

**Pray about It**

Dear God, I pray that in this time of waiting, You will prepare my heart and help those around me come to know You more and more. I thank You for the promise that Jesus is coming again. Amen.

**Day 2**

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| **Faith Fact**  Jesus wants me to be ready.  **Faith Verse**  1 Corinthians 2:9 (NLT)  “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.”  **Question of the Day: What is something you want to do in life?** |

**Read about It**

**Read:** Hebrews 12:1–3

Think of the Christian life like a long race. If you want to win a race, you’ll avoid tripping over things and wearing too heavy clothing, right? But sin tries to make us lose the race: It trips us up and weighs us down. So what do we do? Hebrews 12:1 tells us to strip off the weights and not get tripped up. Another way to say that is we need to say no to sin. How do we do this?

Hebrews 12:1 tells us we’re surrounded by a “huge crowd of witnesses”—people who have lived for God and are now in heaven, cheering us on. We can remember that many people have said no to sin and yes to God, and that can encourage us to keep saying yes to God. God has a plan and a purpose for your life. He wants you to make the choice to be close to Him and to enjoy all the good things He has planned for your life.

One of the things that will help us stay on the path that He has set before us is to make the daily choice to keep our eyes on Jesus. So align yourself with what God is speaking to you in the Bible and in prayer and follow Him. It is one of the best choices that you can make!

**Talk about It**

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| **Question 1.** What is one weight that slows us down in our Christian life?  **Answer 1.** Sin (Hebrews 12:1) |
| **Question 2.** How does sin slow us down?  **Answer 2.** It trips us up. (Hebrews 12:1) |
| **Question 3.** Who are people in your life who do a good job of saying no to sin?  **Answer 3.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 4.** How do you choose daily to keep your eyes on Jesus?  **Answer 4.** Answers may vary. |
| **Question 5.** We won’t become weary and give up when we think of what Jesus endured. What does Hebrews 12:2 say He endured?  **Answer 5.** He endured the Cross, disregarded its shame, and is now seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne. (Hebrews 12:2) |

**Pray about It**

Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to live as my example, die for my sins, and live forever. I know that when I focus on Jesus, I won’t give up. Help me to remember what He did and remember that many people have said yes to You. Then I will be encouraged to keep running my race for You! Amen.

**Day 3**

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| **Faith Fact**  Jesus wants me to be ready.  **Faith Verse**  1 Corinthians 2:9 (NLT)  “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.”  **Question of the Day: What is a faithful person?** |

**Read about It**

**Read:** 2 Timothy 4:5–8

In these verses, the apostle Paul says he remained faithful. Do you know what the word *faithful* means? It means that you stick with something, and you keep doing and believing it. You may have a favorite sports team, and you might be a faithful fan of that team, even when they lose. You may have a favorite breakfast cereal that you faithfully eat every day and never get tired of it.

God wants our faithfulness to Him through all of life, in good times and bad. When you are walking through a hard time, it is important to draw closer to God. You can know that He is right there with you and that you can turn to Him. He is with always with you. He never leaves you and you can always turn to Him. Like 2 Timothy 4:8 says, the crown of righteousness is the prize for everyone who lives faithfully for Jesus. But the prize is also Jesus himself; faithful people eagerly look forward to when He comes back!

**Talk about It**

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| **Question 1.** What does it mean when Paul said he had “fought the good fight” and “finished the race”?  **Answer 1.** His life was almost over, and he had been faithful to follow Jesus. (2 Timothy 4:7) |
| **Question 2.** Who will Jesus give an award for faithfulness?  **Answer 2.** Paul, and all who eagerly look forward to Jesus’ appearing (2 Timothy 4:8) |
| **Question 3.** In what ways can you stay faithful in your walk with God?  **Answer 3.** Answers may vary. |
| **Question 4.** When was a time you struggled in your walk with God?  **Answer 4.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 5.** Who are Christians you know who have fought the good fight, finished the race, and remained faithful to Jesus?  **Answer 5.** Answers will vary. |

**Pray about It**

Dear God, I pray that in the good times and bad times that I will choose to follow You. I thank You that You are with me always, and I thank You for giving me examples of faithfulness in the lives of Paul and others. Amen.

**Day 4**

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| **Faith Fact**  Jesus wants me to be ready.  **Faith Verse**  1 Corinthians 2:9 (NLT)  “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.”  **Question of the Day: How important is it to you to know Jesus?** |

**Read about It**

**Read:** Philippians 3:10–14

Paul, the author of these verses, had a life with many adventures and did many things, good and bad. But here he wrote that everything in his life was worthless compared to knowing Christ Jesus, his Lord. Paul didn’t let his past hold him down. He knew his future with Jesus was so much better! God’s greatest gift is the gift of salvation. Not only will we get to know God in the future in heaven, but we can know Him now!

Paul said that knowing Jesus was the most important thing in his life. We can know Jesus today by talking to Him, reading His Word, and listening to what He says to us so we can share it with others. Even if we have a life of adventure like Paul, we know that no adventure is better than knowing God!

**Talk about It**

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| **Question 1.** How can focusing on our past keep us from knowing God in the future?  **Answer 1.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 2.** What does it mean when Paul said he was “looking forward to what lies ahead”?  **Answer 2.** He knew where his future would take him—to be with Jesus eternally. |
| **Question 3.** What “race” are believers in?  **Answer 3.** Life |
| **Question 4.** What do you think “heavenly prize” is referring to?  **Answer 4.** Eternity with God |
| **Question 5.** In what ways does God want you to know Him more?  **Answer 5.** Answers will vary. |

**Pray about It**

Dear God, thank You that nothing and no one is better than You. Thank You that I can leave my past behind and follow You every day. I pray that I will know You more and more. Amen.