Remembrance of the Ten Virgins (Tuesday, April 6)
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A Bible Study (Adaptable for upper elementary-high school)

Have students read the parable and discuss questions (reproduce for the class).

Matthew 25:1-13 *This parable was based on wedding customs of the time. They typically took place in the evening, though the exact time was kept secret. Prior to the ceremony the groom would go to the bride's home and lead her, along with the villagers, in a procession to the wedding. This was also the tradition in old-world Armenian weddings. The virgins in this story were waiting for the groom, and were probably bridesmaids who had the responsibility to prepare the bride to meet the groom.*

1. What made the "wise virgins" different from the "foolish virgins?"
   a. They had been Girl Scouts.
   b. They didn't fall asleep.
   c. They were always prepared.
   d. They made responsible decisions.

2. What would you call the refusal of the five women to share their oil?
   a. wise
   b. shrewd
   c. selfish
   d. just
   e. unjust
   f. mean

3. What did the bridegroom mean when he said, "I don't know you?"
   a. "I don't recognize you."
   b. "You don't have an invitation."
   c. "True friends would take my coming more seriously."
   d. "You're too late."

4. How do you feel about Jesus saying that the door to the kingdom gets closed for some?
   a. It doesn't sound like something a loving God would do.
   b. They had their chance and blew it.
   c. We should just be glad people get invited at all.
   d. I'm glad this is God's business.

5. What is the point of this parable?
   a. Each of us needs our own relationship with the Lord.
   b. You can't obtain faith in Christ just by being around others who do.
   c. There is a limited opportunity to enter God's kingdom.
   d. The second coming of Christ will arrive unexpectedly.
   e. Be prepared for Christ's return.

6. What does it mean to keep watch?
   a. try to figure out the signs of Christ's return
   b. patiently wait for a future event
   c. actively prepare in the present
   d. be ready when Jesus comes back

7. What does Jesus expect Christians to do with their lives in anticipation of the return?