

# KINGDOM GIRL

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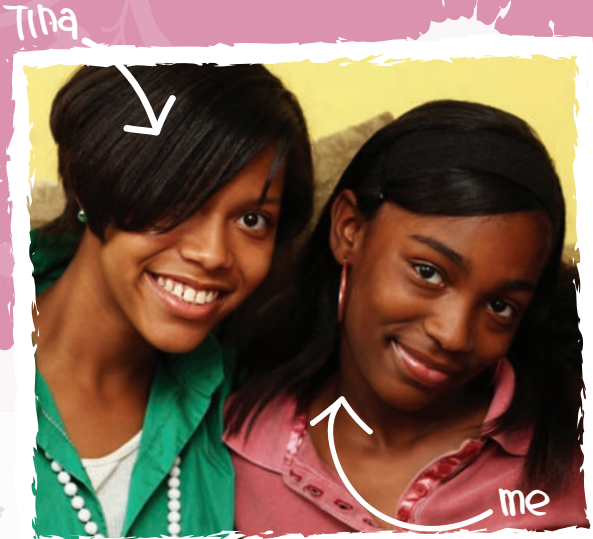
All quoted Scripture is taken from the New International Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

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# READY OR NOT

Will you be ready when Jesus comes?



## Out of TIME

### Relate It

I can't wait until Saturday. My sister, Tina, is

*finally* getting married. It seems like she and my mom have been preparing for this wedding for forever! They started making plans over a year ago. Dad said he's happy Tina is getting married so she can spend her husband's money instead of his.

Anyway, I'm so excited! I've been to weddings before, but this is the first wedding I actually get to be in. I'm one of the bridesmaids. At first Tina picked five bridesmaids, but now there's only four of us.

Tina's friend Yvette isn't going to be in the wedding anymore. She didn't order her dress or her shoes in time, and now the dress is on backorder. The store told her there is no way it will be ready before Saturday.

My sister was, well—lets just say she was a little upset. Yvette kept apologizing. She even asked if she could just get a similar dress and still be in the wedding. Tina couldn't believe Yvette had the nerve to ask that. She had plenty of time to order her dress like the rest of us. Tina told Yvette she didn't want her at the wedding, the rehearsal dinner, or any of the other activities that were planned for the wedding party.

At first I thought Tina was being a little too harsh, but, then again, I guess it's only fair. Yvette had more than enough time to get her dress and shoes, but she decided to put it off. She waited until the last minute and then it was just too late. I think Tina felt like Yvette wasn't taking the wedding seriously. She certainly didn't make it a priority. Anyway, when you snooze you lose!

### Memorize It

*Therefore keep watch,  
because you do not know on  
what day your Lord will come.*  
Matthew 24:42

# Waiting for the Groom

## Relay It

Jesus told really cool stories (His stories were called parables) to help people understand things. One of His stories was about a wedding. He wanted His friends—His disciples—to understand that He was going to go to Heaven but that He would come back some day.

So, in this parable, ten bridesmaids are waiting for the bridegroom, or the groom, to show up. Their job was to light the path for the bride when he came. Their role was very important, but none of them knew exactly when the groom would arrive.

Jesus told His disciples that five of the bridesmaids were wise and five were foolish. The five wise bridesmaids brought extra oil for their lamps so they wouldn't run out. The other five didn't.

The groom didn't show up right away, so everyone got tired and fell asleep. At midnight a messenger came and said the groom was ready! But, remember—five of the bridesmaids were foolish. On the way, their lamps started to burn out. They asked the others to share their oil, but the wise bridesmaids knew if they shared they wouldn't have enough for themselves. So the five foolish girls hurried to go buy more oil. While they were gone, the groom came and took everyone who was ready into the celebration. The others returned and tried to get in, but the door was closed. The foolish bridesmaids knocked. They cried out to the groom to let them in, but he wouldn't. It was too late.

Being ready means you love Jesus and live your life for Him.

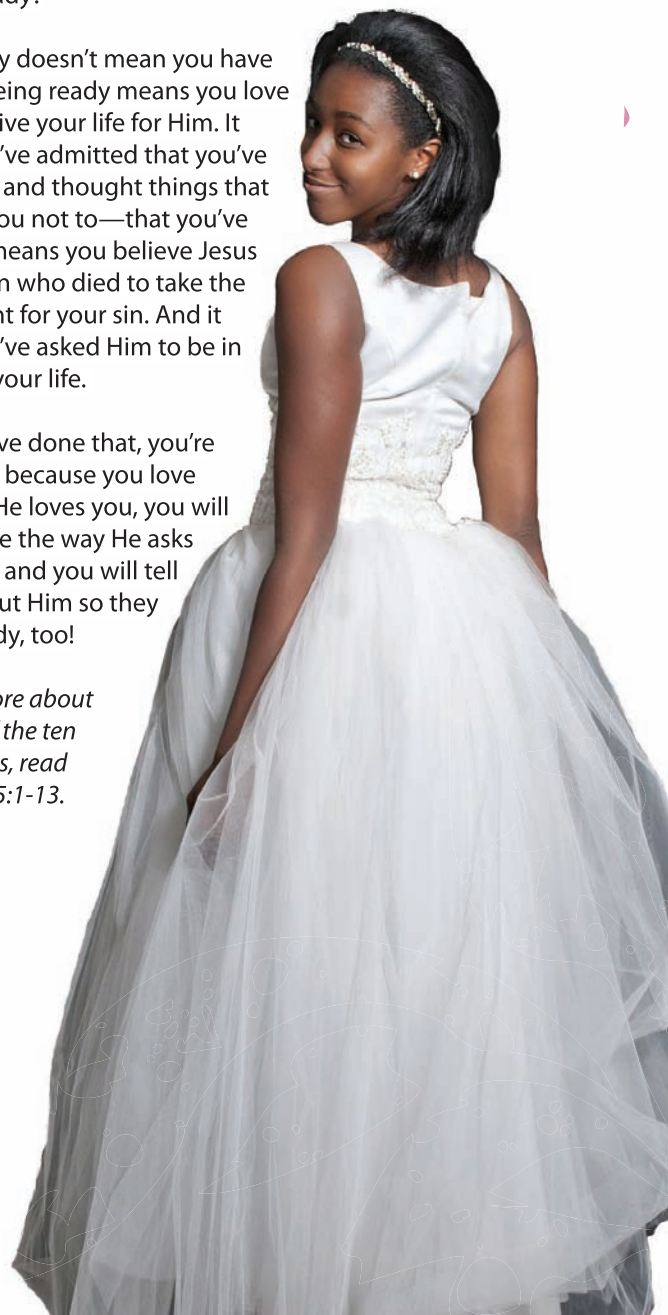
So what does this story have to do with Jesus? Well, just like the groom, Jesus promised He would return, but we don't know when He's coming back. He promised to take everyone who believes in Him to Heaven to live with Him forever. He even said there would be a big celebration and a feast! But, He wants us to be ready because not everyone will get to come.

Are you ready?

Being ready doesn't mean you have extra oil. Being ready means you love Jesus and live your life for Him. It means you've admitted that you've done, said, and thought things that God asks you not to—that you've sinned. It means you believe Jesus is God's Son who died to take the punishment for your sin. And it means you've asked Him to be in control of your life.

When you've done that, you're ready! And because you love Jesus and He loves you, you will live your life the way He asks you to live, and you will tell others about Him so they can be ready, too!

*To learn more about the story of the ten bridesmaids, read Matthew 25:1-13.*





# Respond To It

1 In the opening story, what was Tina's sister going to be at Tina's wedding?

- A hostess
- An usher
- A bridesmaid



7 Why do you need to be ready for Jesus' return?

2 Why wasn't Yvette able to participate in the wedding?

- She didn't have the right dress.
- She broke her leg.
- She had to work that day.

3 Jesus told stories to help people understand things. What were His stories called?

- Folktales
- Parables
- Fables

4 What was the story Jesus told His disciples about?

- Five wise and five foolish bridesmaids
- Ten wise men
- Five wise sisters and five foolish brothers

5 What did the five foolish bridesmaids not have enough of?

- Food for the feast
- Flashlights
- Oil for their lamps

6 Did the foolish bridesmaids get to go to the wedding celebration?

- Yes
- No

8 Circle the things you need to do to be ready for Jesus' return:

- Admit you have sinned.
- Do lots of nice things for other people.
- Never mess up again.
- Believe that Jesus took the punishment for your sin.
- Go to church every Sunday.
- Ask Jesus to be in control of your life.
- Have extra oil ready in your house.

9 Unscramble the words from the story. Use the word bank to help you.

- |               |               |             |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| a. disciples  | b. wise       | c. parables |
| d. groom      | e. oil        | f. lamp     |
| g. procession | h. bridesmaid |             |
| i. ready      | j. foolish    |             |

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blespara \_\_\_\_\_

10 If Jesus were to return today, would you be ready?

Yes  No

If you answered no, do you want to be ready? Journal about your response. If you answered yes, take a minute to write Jesus a note telling Him how much you love Him.

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## Reflect It

Today I learned \_\_\_\_\_

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Because of what I learned, I will \_\_\_\_\_

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## Remember It

Jesus promises He will return, but no one knows exactly when He'll come back. When He comes, I need to be ready! Until then I need to live for Him and tell others about Him so they can be ready, too!

## Pray About It

Dear Lord,

I want to be like the wise bridesmaids who were prepared. I know I've messed up, and I know Jesus died to take the punishment for my sin. Please be in control of my life and help me tell others about You so they can be ready, too! Amen.

