

***Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way***

November 8, 2020

Amos 5:18-24

Psalm 70

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13



23rd Sunday after Pentecost



Hello friends! I'm trying to think of something, but I've lost my words this morning. Maybe you can help. The thing that I'm thinking of can be short or long, the color can vary...it takes those things...batteries? And it gets bright when you turn it on...what's the thing I'm thinking of? YES!!! A flashlight! And what does a flashlight do? It lights the way when we point it at something, right?

In today's gospel lesson from Matthew, Jesus tells a story about some folks who are in the dark waiting for their friend. Their friend had just gotten married and he and his wife were coming home. It was really, really dark -remember, there were no street lights...or flashlights... or cell phones to light the way. People used oil lamps to light their way but here's the thing...if you didn't have any oil, you didn't have any light, just like if we didn't have batteries for our flashlight, do you think it would shine? Nope!

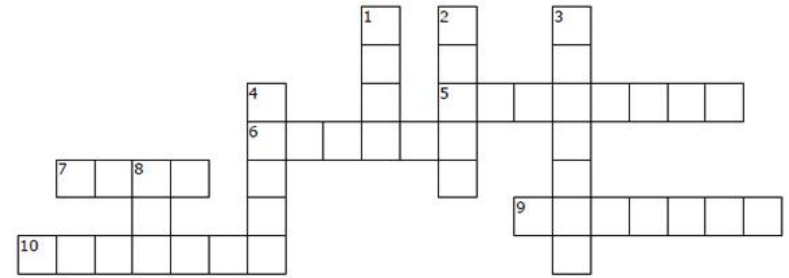
In our story, Jesus says that some of the people who were waiting for their friend had their lamps run out of oil so they left to go get more oil, and that's when their friend walked by. Yep. They totally missed it! In fact, they missed out on seeing the coolest thing, their friend and ALL of his friends had lamps so it was like a really cool parade of lights!

The friends who left to get more oil missed their friend and the parade of lights because they thought providing their own light was more important than being there when their friend appeared.

See, in a lot of ways, we are like a flashlight. We are meant to shine with God's love and care for the whole world to see. But, sometimes, we think that we are supposed to provide our own batteries and make our own light and when we think that way, we miss Jesus' invitation to gather together to receive what GOD gives us! Because God fills us with love, we can shine bright and this helps others come to know that God loves ALL of us.

Gracious God, thank you for your love that shines bright within our hearts. Help us to share your love with the rest of the world. Amen.

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 5. 12 o'clock at night
- 6. Not awake
- 7. A swinging or sliding cover over the place where someone usually enters a room
- 9. Ceremony in which a man and a woman are married.
- 10. Someone who does not use good judgment is _____.

DOWN

- 1. Someone who has good judgment and makes good decisions is _____.
- 2. Devices used to produce light
- 3. A feast or meal held in recognition of some person or occasion
- 4. To observe or look at something
- 8. A liquid that is often used to make fuel.

MIDNIGHT	LAMPS	WATCH	OIL	FOOLISH
ASLEEP	DOOR	BANQUET	WISE	WEDDING

Activity: Tonight, eat your dinner by candlelight. Share with your family the things you love about them and about the world that God created.

Discussion Question What are ways that we can help each other have enough oil in our lamp to shine a light for Christ?

Family Table Prayer for November:

God you provide all that we need, your blessings are all around. Help us to open our eyes to all that you do and where your love can be found. Amen.

November Memory Verse: I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will tell everyone of your wonderful deeds. Psalm 9:1



The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

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