

Jesus Stories  
This week's reading: Matthew 25  
Discussion Guide: April 6, 2025

**CHECK UP:**

\*Memory Work: Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. – James 1:22

\*Was there any way in which you were determined to be obedient this past week?

**OPEN:**

- What was a highlight in your week this past week? What was a particular challenge you had?
- Did you B.L.E.S.S. someone this past week? (*Begin in prayer, Listen, Eat, Serve, Share*)

**READ and ASK: Matthew 25**

- What thoughts come to your mind when you hear the phrase "the return of Christ"?
- Why do we tend to think (and act like) we have all the time in the world to get ready for Christ's return?
- What does the first parable teach about the need for individual readiness?
- What thoughts or attitudes cause us to be lazy in carrying out our Christian responsibilities?
- In what ways can you be a "good and faithful" servant?
- How would you counter that this passage teaches "salvation by works"?
- What change does true faith make in a person's life?

**APPLY:**

- What specific ways has your faith in Jesus changed you?

- What talents and resources has God entrusted you with?
  
- In light of the three “parables” in Matthew 25, do you need to focus most on being ready (right with God) for Christ’s return, being faithfully active until Christ’s return or actively loving one another in deed until Christ’s return?
  - o NEXT STEP: How can you change your attitude this week in order to reflect your belief in the imminent return of Christ?

Memory Work:

Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

- Matthew 24:42

Next Week’s Reading:

OPEN