



# A

ctivity

*Commander / Leader:* Place one blindfolded member in the center of a circle at least 15 feet in diameter. The rest of the group are seated outside the circle. Place a ball 1 foot in front of the blindfolded member. The rest of the group take turns trying to sneak up, take the ball, and leave the circle without being caught. If the blindfolded person senses the intruder he will point in the direction of the intruder in order to "catch" him.

# B

iblical Insight

All the words of the Bible are important! When ideas are repeated in Scripture, it is done for emphasis. The section about the Second Coming is preceded and followed by a repeated statement: "Keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come" (Matthew 24:42); and "Keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour" (Matthew 25:13).

Watchful waiting is not idleness. We must be alert to Jesus' coming at any time, for He will come when one is not expecting it. Watching also protects us against the error of assuming that His return will be a long time off. Finally, the believers are to be at work in view of Jesus' soon return. The Parable of the Talents makes this clear (Matthew 25:14-30), and the apostle Paul warned the Thessalonians to work, not be idle (2 Thessalonians 3:6-10).

# C

omposition

Tell in your own words the common meaning of each of the three parables found in Matthew 24:42 to 25:13.

Research to find an example of someone in history who tried to predict the exact day Jesus would return. Tell why you disagree with predicting an exact date for His return. Support your arguments with Scripture references.

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# E

valuation

How often does the truth about Jesus' return enter your thoughts or influence the way in which you plan your day?

How might your lifestyle change if you were to begin being truly watchful as Christ commanded? Think of specific examples.

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# D

iscussion

What does the Parable of the Ten Virgins teach believers about their personal relationship with Jesus and His second coming?

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## Lesson 141

A: N/A

C: Each of the parables stresses the importance of “watching” for the Lord’s return because we do not know when it will happen.

Answers will vary.

D: The parable teaches us that each person is responsible to watch and work for the return of Jesus and that we should prepare in advance for His return.

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