

“Stay Awake”

Faith in a Numb and Distracted World · Matthew 25:1–13 · Mark 13:32–37

KEY VERSE

“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.” — Matthew 25:13

OVERVIEW & MAIN THEME

Spiritual sleep is the greatest danger to faith — not open rebellion, but quiet drift. We are the most connected generation in history, and yet among the most spiritually disengaged. The danger isn't rejection of truth. It's distraction from it.

KEY PASSAGES

Matthew 25:1–13

The ten bridesmaids — readiness, delay, and a door that shuts.

Mark 13:32–37

No one knows the hour; the call to watch at every watch of the night.

1 Thessalonians 5:5–8

Children of the day; staying sober, armed with faith, love, and hope.

Romans 13:11–14

Wake from sleep; cast off darkness, put on the armor of light.

STUDY PURPOSE

- Recognize spiritual drift as a quiet danger, not a dramatic one.
- Diagnose what spiritual sleep looks like in a digital, distracted age.
- Understand wakefulness as a discipline, not just a feeling.
- Respond with intentional, concrete spiritual practices.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, before we open Your Word, open our eyes. Show us where we have quietly drifted without noticing. Wake us gently, and give us the courage to tend what matters most while there is still time. In Jesus' name, amen.

ICEBREAKER QUESTIONS (5 MIN)

1. Have you ever fallen asleep with your phone in your hand or the TV still on? What does that image bring to mind spiritually?
2. When was the last time you were truly, unhurriedly attentive to God — not just consuming content about Him?
3. Do you tend to notice spiritual drift in yourself quickly, or only after a lot of time has passed?

READ THE TEXTS TOGETHER

Read the following passages aloud before answering the questions below.

Matthew 25:1–13

Mark 13:32–37

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

Matthew 25:1–13

1. What was the key difference between the wise and foolish bridesmaids?
2. The text says all ten bridesmaids fell asleep. What does that detail tell us about the parable's real point?
3. What happened when the bridegroom finally arrived?
4. Why couldn't the foolish bridesmaids simply borrow oil at the last minute?

Mark 13:32–37

5. Who, according to Jesus, knows the day or hour of His return?
6. What command does Jesus repeat throughout this passage?
7. Why does Jesus name every watch of the night — evening, midnight, early hours, morning?

Memory Verse: *“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.” — Matthew 25:13*

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INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS (20 MIN)

1. Why do you think Jesus describes spiritual unreadiness as falling asleep rather than open rebellion?
2. What is the difference between being “awake” and simply being busy or informed?
3. How can someone be highly engaged with content about God and still be spiritually asleep?
4. Why does Jesus emphasize that no one — not even the angels — knows the hour of His return?
5. What does the “door that was shut” reveal about the nature of this kind of unreadiness?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS (15 MIN)

1. Where in your life right now do you feel spiritually “present but not attentive” — going through the motions without really engaging?
Be honest. This is a safe space.
2. What is currently crowding out stillness in your daily rhythm?
3. Is there a form of busyness in your life — even “good” Christian busyness — that may be functioning as a kind of sleep?
4. What would it look like this week to build five or ten minutes of real silence into your day?
5. Who in your life is close enough to notice if you’ve drifted, and honest enough to tell you?

GROUP DISCUSSION FOCUS

- Spiritual sleep is quiet drift, not dramatic rebellion.
- Information about God is not the same as attentiveness to God.
- Wakefulness is a discipline you practice, not a feeling you wait for.
- The door is still open — which means there is still time to tend the lamp.

PRACTICES TO TRY THIS WEEK

- Build 10 minutes of real margin into one day — no screen, no noise.
- Practice solitude: sit in silence before God without an agenda.
- Read one short passage slowly as encounter, not information.
- Ask one trusted person: “Do you see any drift in me I might be missing?”
- Notice and give thanks for one ordinary, unremarkable moment today.

LEADER NOTES

- Keep the tone gentle, not accusatory. Spiritual drift produces shame easily — shame puts people back to sleep, it doesn’t wake them.
- This is not a sermon against phones or technology. Keep the focus on attentiveness to God, not a referendum on screens.
- Allow real silence during the diagnostic questions. Don’t rush to fill the quiet — that discomfort is part of the lesson.
- Remind the group: the fact that someone is asking these questions honestly means they are, in this moment, waking up.

THE BIG IDEA

The danger isn’t rejecting the truth.

It’s drifting from it.

Wakefulness isn’t a feeling — it’s a discipline.

Tend the lamp now, in the ordinary moment, while the door is still open.

SERIES RECAP

Week 1: don’t be alarmed by the signs. Week 2: don’t be cynical about the delay. Week 3: don’t drift into sleep while you wait. Hope is on the way — stay alert, stay patient, stay awake.

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, wake us gently but truly. Give us discipline to tend what we’ve been given — margin, silence, your Word, honest community. Thank You the door is still open. We want to be found awake. Amen.