

Thinking about...

# The parable of the young women

Jesus told a story about some young women getting ready for a big event to remind us that we need to be ready for his kingdom.

Jesus taught people using stories. He called these stories parables, and this one is about some young women preparing for a big event, but when it started some of them weren't ready...

The kingdom of heaven will be like this: there were ten young women who took their oil lamps and went to wait for the bridegroom. Five of them took extra oil to make sure they would have enough for their lamps to burn for hours, and the other five didn't.



They waited... and waited... and eventually they all fell asleep.



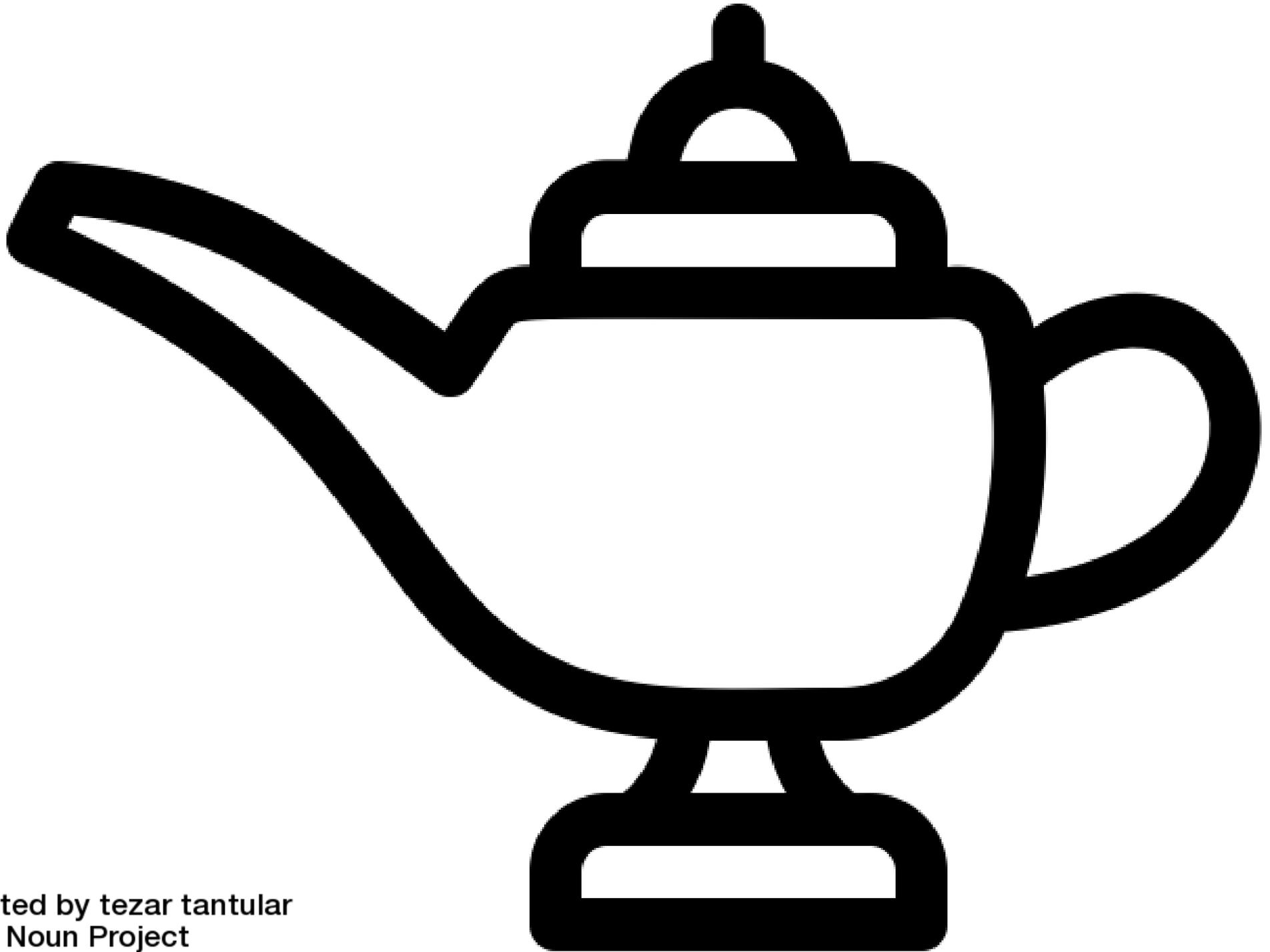
It was midnight. At last the bridegroom arrived! The five young women who had brought extra oil were ready with their lamps burning. As for the others, their lamps had gone out. They had to go off and buy some more oil - and they missed the wedding feast.



## What next?

You could...

- Think of someone important. Imagine they were coming to visit. What would you do to get ready? Make a list.
- Use half a paper plate to make an oil lamp shape. Add a flame out of one end. Use the rest of the plate to cut out oil drops. Write on each drop some good features that Jesus wants to see in us.
- Draw a lamp in one minute - including finding the things you need for your picture. Did you finish in time? Do it again, but this time with pencil & paper there. Were you more ready this time? Did you finish?
- Think about what being ready for Jesus' kingdom might look like. Take a picture of an oil lamp. Write on it ways that we can be ready and make good choices.



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