



BIBLE STUDY BOOKLET

When the Call Comes

Living ready for the Bridegroom through the trumpet call,
faithful waiting, and holy joy



Read carefully. Observe honestly. Respond faithfully.

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Living Life in Agreement with God
Hebrews 8:6-12



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Purpose of this study

This devotional brings Matthew 25:1-13 into conversation with the biblical Day of Trumpet Blasts and with later Rosh Hashanah themes. Matthew remains the controlling text. The festival material supplies historical background and devotional imagery; it does not establish the date of Christ's return.

CENTRAL TRUTH: When God's call comes, knowledge about the Bridegroom is not a substitute for being ready to meet him. Prepare now, remain faithful through the delay, and wait with hope.

Suggested Wednesday rhythm

- Opening prayer and introduction - 5 minutes
- Read Matthew 24:36-25:13 aloud - 15 minutes
- Explore the festival background - 10 minutes
- Work through the eight questions - 30 minutes
- Personal inventory and closing prayer - 15 minutes

Interpretive agreement

We will distinguish direct biblical teaching from historical tradition and devotional application. We will not identify every detail of the parable symbolically, calculate the date of Christ's return, or treat Christian application as a replacement for the Jewish meaning of Rosh Hashanah.

Opening notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no text or other markings on the paper.

1. Hear the biblical trumpet



The blast summons attention; the open scroll directs attention to God's Word.

The appointed day

READ: Leviticus 23:23-25; Numbers 29:1-6

The Torah sets apart the first day of the seventh month as a sacred assembly and cessation from ordinary work, marked by teru'ah - a blast, sounding, or alarm - and by prescribed offerings.

What trumpet sounds can do

READ: Numbers 10:1-10; Exodus 19:16-20; Leviticus 25:8-10

Across these passages, sounds summon the community, direct movement, warn of danger, accompany worship, announce God's presence, and proclaim liberty. Each passage must still be read in its own context. Numbers 10 describes silver trumpets; not every biblical trumpet is a shofar.

DEVOTIONAL CONNECTION: The trumpet image asks more than, 'Did I hear a sound?' It asks, 'Did I recognize the summons and respond?'

Observe

1. What does Leviticus explicitly command?

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2. What purposes are given to the silver trumpets in Numbers 10?

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3. What response should follow a summons, warning, or announcement from God?

Study notes

2. Remember, return, and rejoice



Devotional visualization of Nehemiah 8: God's people gather, listen, understand, and respond.

A holy day in Nehemiah

READ: Nehemiah 8:1-12

On the first day of the seventh month, the people gather, listen to the Torah, receive explanation, experience conviction, rejoice, and share with those who have nothing prepared. The passage does not call the day Rosh Hashanah, but its date and response are important background.

A trumpet and a direct call to return

READ: Joel 2:1, 12-17

Joel supplies a clearer biblical connection between a trumpet warning and repentance: the people are summoned to return to God wholeheartedly.

Rosh Hashanah background

Jewish tradition later named the festival Rosh Hashanah, treated Tishrei 1 as a new year for counting years, and emphasized divine kingship, judgment, remembrance, repentance, and renewal. These themes illuminate contemporary Jewish observance, but they should not all be attributed directly to Leviticus 23.

BALANCE: Conviction does not have to end in despair. Nehemiah 8 moves from understanding and sorrow to holy joy, obedience, and generosity.

3. Waiting for the Bridegroom



Artistic visualization of Matthew 25:1-13; it does not identify the setting as Rosh Hashanah.

Read the full setting

READ: Matthew 24:36-51; Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus repeatedly commands his disciples to watch and be ready because the timing is unknown. The parable of the ten bridesmaids illustrates readiness during a delay.

What the parable clearly shows

- All ten bridesmaids expected the bridegroom.
- All ten became drowsy and slept; ordinary sleep is not the dividing failure.
- The wise brought what was needed for a longer wait.
- The foolish attempted to make preparations only after the announcement.
- Those who were ready entered the wedding banquet.
- Jesus concludes with a command to keep watch because the timing is unknown.

What the parable does not explicitly identify

- The midnight cry is not called a trumpet blast.
- The parable never names Rosh Hashanah or the Feast of Trumpets.
- Jesus does not explain the oil as the Holy Spirit, saving faith, good works, or one particular doctrine.
- The parable does not reveal a date for Christ's return.

MAIN CONTRAST: The difference is not between sleepers and nonsleepers. It is between people who prepared beforehand and people who postponed preparation until the decisive moment.

Text observations

4. Eight questions for group discussion

1. Why were the wise bridesmaids called wise?

Response

—

—

2. Why is the fact that all ten became drowsy and slept important?

Response

3. What preparation did the foolish bridesmaids postpone?

Response

—

4. What kinds of spiritual preparation cannot be borrowed from someone else?

Response

Group discussion - continued

5. How does an extended delay reveal whether faith is durable?

Response

6. Should Christian watchfulness be characterized primarily by fear or by hope? Why?

Response

7. What is one act of preparation God may be calling you to make now?

Response

8. How might the biblical trumpet theme help us hear Jesus' warning more seriously?

Response

5. Six movements of faithful readiness



Stop. Listen. Remember. Repent. Rejoice. Prepare.

Movement	Devotional response	Read
STOP	Examine your present condition before God. Where have hurry, distraction, or presumption displaced attentiveness?	Psalms 139:23-24
LISTEN	Receive God's Word with the intention to respond, not merely to collect information.	James 1:22-25
REMEMBER	Bring God's faithfulness and promises into the present so they strengthen you during delay.	Psalms 77:11-14
REPENT	Name what is wrong, confess it honestly, turn from it, and take corrective action while there is opportunity.	Joel 2:12-13
REJOICE	Wait for the Bridegroom with hope. Christian readiness aims toward fellowship and the wedding banquet, not panic.	Matthew 25:10
PREPARE	Practice steady obedience, faith, love, reconciliation, generosity, and perseverance. Do not substitute last-minute religious urgency for a faithful life.	1 Thessalonians 5:4-11

Combined life application

Stop and examine your life. Listen when God speaks. Remember his faithfulness. Repent while there is opportunity. Rejoice in the coming Bridegroom. Prepare through steady, personal obedience rather than last-minute religious urgency.

6. Personal spiritual inventory

Pray slowly through these prompts. Write one specific response rather than several vague intentions. Test personal impressions against Scripture and seek wise counsel where appropriate.

STOP: What do I need to pause long enough to face honestly?

LISTEN: What has God already made clear in Scripture?

REMEMBER: Where has God shown faithfulness during a previous delay?

REPENT: What sin, excuse, or postponed act of obedience must change?

REJOICE: What promise about Christ gives me hope?

PREPARE: What faithful action will I begin within the next twenty-four hours?

My one next step

With God's help, I will _____

I will begin by _____ Date: _____

A person who can encourage me: _____

7. Prayer of readiness



A steady lamp in the darkness: readiness shaped by faith, hope, and perseverance.

Lord Jesus, awaken my heart without making me anxious. Teach me to hear your Word and obey it, to remember your faithfulness during delay, and to turn from whatever weakens my devotion. Replace presumption with perseverance and fear with holy hope. Make me faithful in the ordinary responsibilities you have given me. Help me reconcile where relationships are broken, share with those who lack provision, encourage other believers, and welcome your coming with joy. Keep my lamp ready—not through last-minute urgency, but through a life steadily formed by faith, love, hope, and obedience. Amen.

Closing declaration

I do not know the day or the hour. I therefore choose neither speculation nor fear. By God's grace, I will watch, prepare, persevere, and live faithfully while I wait for the Bridegroom.

Prayer and Wednesday-study notes

Scripture reference list

Leviticus 23:23-25 | Numbers 10:1-10; 29:1-6 | Exodus 19:16-20 | Leviticus 25:8-10 |
Nehemiah 8:1-12 | Joel 2:1,12-17 | Matthew 24:36-51 | Matthew 25:1-13 | James
1:22-25 | 1 Thessalonians 5:4-11

Study caution

This guide presents a thematic Christian application. It does not claim that Matthew 25 predicts Rosh Hashanah, that the midnight cry is the festival shofar, that the oil has one explicitly revealed symbolic meaning, or that Christ must return on a particular festival date.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Covenant Life Ministries

THE BIBLE

We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the infallible, authoritative Word of God.

GOD

We believe in one Creator God who has revealed Himself in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as both God and man as the only one who can restore us into right standing with God.

JESUS

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the role of the Holy Spirit, as the third person of the Trinity, is first to bring conviction to a person's heart of their need for God's gift of salvation in Jesus Christ. Second, the Holy Spirit guides, instructs and gives supernatural gifts to followers of Jesus for godly living, acts of service and spiritual unity with other believers.

SALVATION

The blood of Jesus Christ, shed on the cross, provides the only way of salvation through the forgiveness of sin. Salvation occurs when people place their belief in the death and resurrection of Christ as sufficient payment for their sin. Salvation is a gift from God, and it cannot be earned through our own efforts. Therefore, if you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

THE CHURCH

The Bible instructs followers of Jesus to gather on a regular basis to worship, pray, receive teaching from God's Word, reach out to help others, use our gifts, encourage and build each other up, and participate in communion and baptism. We believe that Jesus Christ is the head of His Church and that each local church chooses leaders, called elders and pastors, to make decisions for their specific congregation.

JOIN US Worship • Learn • Grow • Serve



- Main Service — Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday Night Bible Study — 7:00 p.m.
- Children's Church available
- Facebook and YouTube streaming begins at 10:30 a.m.
- For event details, visit our Events Calendar at clmlife.com.

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