

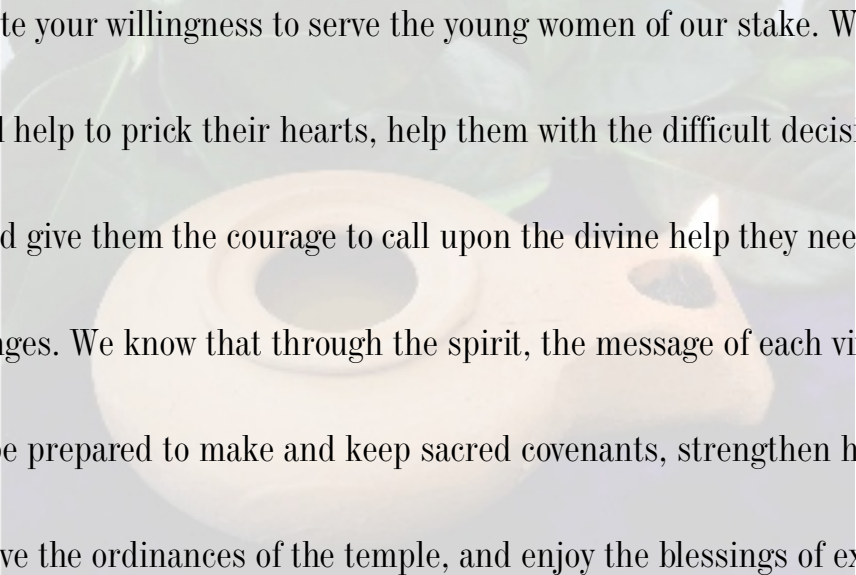
The Ten Virgins Presentation



When Christ told the story about the ten virgins, he was sending a message to us as members of the church. It was a message sent to the elect with a warning that even the elect can be deceived. These virgins represent those who profess a belief in Christ. That is why they came and hoped to be welcomed into the kingdom. In the painting they represent five virtues and five vices. They each carry a symbol that represents their values. They each have a gift to give if you will accept it.

Virtue/Vice	Symbol she is holding	Gift
Peace	White flower (lily)	Oil
Sacrament/Repentance	Bundle of wheat	Oil
Temple	White dove or Statue of temple	Oil
Truth & Knowledge	Scroll	Oil
Charity	Basket of fruit	Oil
Pride	Pot of Gold	Chocolate gold coins
Worldly Pleasures	Large silver vase	Coupon: permission to date with worldly standards
Addictions & Excess	Platter with 2 goblets and bottle of sparkling cider labeled "Worldly Addictions"	A drink of "wine"
Darkness	Black licorice	Black licorice
Power, Ego, Dishonesty	Flashy statue	Money

Dear Sisters,



We appreciate your willingness to serve the young women of our stake. We pray that this program will help to prick their hearts, help them with the difficult decisions they face everyday, and give them the courage to call upon the divine help they need to overcome their challenges. We know that through the spirit, the message of each virgin can help the youth “be prepared to make and keep sacred covenants, strengthen home and family, receive the ordinances of the temple, and enjoy the blessings of exaltation.”

Sincerely,

Setting:

Set up 5 areas and have 2 virgins stationed at each area. The girls will rotate from area to area and hear the lessons from each of the virgins. Flashlights can light the path if necessary.

Costumes:

Each virgin will have outer robes and scarves to dress as the 10 virgins of old but when it is her turn to do her part she will take off the outer robe and be dressed as her part depicts (while continuing with modesty).

Gifts:

The young women will be told that each of the virgins will offer than a gift and it is up to them to decide which gifts are wise and which are foolish and only to accept the wise gifts.

Program:

The young women will follow the trail to the first station. They will be asked to be very quiet as they move from station to station. A short summary of the parable of the 10 virgins will be told and then the directions for accepting the gifts from the 10 virgins. The girls will be instructed to move from station to station to hear the experiences of the ten virgins.

After this presentation, a summary will be given based on Mosiah 2:41, a poem about the ten virgins will be read (that tells each quality of each virgin from the program) and a book mark will be given out that has a picture of the 10 virgins on it. A short talk will be given encouraging the young women to think about the choices they are making at this time in their lives because they will have eternal consequences either for good or for ill. Each of their good choices adds oil to their lamps and prepares them to meet the Savior again.



Peace

In Proverbs 15:1 it reads, “a soft answer turneth away wrath. . .” It was easy to get angry or impatient at others at home or at school when I was a teenager. I remember a speaker once said that we often treat our family members much more harshly than we would or friends. And yet we will be with our family forever and they are the most important people in the world to us. After that when I became impatient with my brothers or sisters or parents – I would stop a moment before I spoke. I tried to never say things that I would regret. Things that would hurt their feelings and that I didn’t really mean – but would be easy to say in anger. After a while it became a habit to be more patient and loving to my family. I knew that they loved me more than anything and they sometimes made mistakes too, but they were just trying their best to be my parents or to be my sister or brother. My mother said that she appreciated the peacemaker I was in our family. When I got married, it made our marriage much stronger as I looked for the good in my husband and tried to overlook little imperfections. We have a happy family and a strong and loving marriage. It is a blessing to have a home without contention. I am thankful for the example of a peacemaker that our Savior is to us. He was strong in righteousness, yet meek, loving, and kind.

I will choose to be a peacemaker in my family.

I offer you the gift of peace. Will you choose to be a peacemaker too?



Sacrament – Repentance

I am thankful for the opportunity each week to take the sacrament. It gives me a chance to stop and think of what I have done in my life. I prayerfully repent of the mistakes that I have made and think of how I can be a better person and the changes I can make in my life to be more Christ-like. What a blessing it is to take the sacrament each week and to renew my baptismal covenants and feel the cleansing power of the atonement. I am thankful for the Savior and His gift of repentance to me. I know that He suffered for my sins. I love my Savior. Because of His atonement I can be forgiven of my sins and walk back clean again to the presence of my Father in Heaven. I look forward to the day when I can hear the Savior say, “She is mine. She was bought with a price and she is mine. Well done thou good and faithful servant. Enter thou into the presence of the Lord.” Until that day I will try to live worthy. I have a wonderful husband who has the same goals. Together we keep our temple covenants and are raising a beautiful family of _____ children. Our main goal in life is to raise up a righteous family and have an eternal marriage and an eternal family.

I choose to use the gift of repentance in my life.

I offer you the gift of repentance as given by the Savior.

Will you choose to accept the blessings of this gift too?



Temple Ordinances

When I was a young woman I wrote in my journal that I wished that I knew who I was going to marry – but even though I didn't know who he was – I already loved him and wanted to be the best I could be for him. I wanted to live my life in such a way that I would always be worthy of a temple marriage and the blessings of the temple. I wanted to stay morally clean and never do anything that I would be embarrassed or ashamed to tell my future husband about. Even though I didn't know who he was or where he was I knew that someday I would meet him and I wanted to look back on my dating years as a time when I had wholesome fun with other young men with no regrets.

My husband said that throughout his teenage years when he was faced with moral decisions he would always think that he wanted to keep himself clean for his future wife and he fully expected her to be doing the same. In high school he had to completely change friends twice in order to stay away from word of wisdom and girl problems. Now that I am married - I believe that my children – who I can look at now and love so dearly – needed to come to a righteous home where the gospel was present. I don't believe I would have these children – especially _____ if I hadn't lived worthily. They have missions that they need to fulfill in this life and they needed the right home and environment in order to fulfill that mission. Because of the choices I made as a young woman – I have the blessings of a temple marriage and a gospel centered home for my children to come to.

Now is the time for you to prepare for the temple marriage and the home you want to have. The choices you make now to stay morally clean will affect you eternally and will even affect the children you have and generations after that.

I have chosen to keep myself worthy for the blessings of the temple and my eternal family.

I offer you the gifts of temple blessings.



Will you choose to keep yourself morally clean and accept this gift?

Truth and Knowledge

When I was in seminary, my teacher challenged us to read 10-15 minutes every day from the scriptures. Some nights I was so tired that I was tempted not to read, but I made myself. Those nights I hardly remembered what I read, but at least I read. It helped me start a habit that has blessed me my whole life. The scriptures have helped to keep me close to my Father in Heaven. When I read the scriptures I feel the spirit and find comfort and strength. I know that the scriptures are true and I am thankful for the prophets that wrote them, protected them, and handed them down from generation to generation so that I can have them. I know that by reading the scriptures daily I will stay strong in my faith and my testimony of the truth and knowledge found in the scriptures will grow. I want to be a good example to my children and help them to develop their own testimonies.

When I started BYU I noticed the inscription at the entrance “The Glory of God is Intelligence”. I took seriously the challenge of President Hinckley for young women to become educated. In addition to learning more about the gospel through scripture study, seminary and religion classes, I have earned my bachelor’s degree in elementary education from BYU. College was great; I wouldn’t trade the experiences I had there for anything. And I think it helped prepare me for marriage as I learned to live on my own, make wise decisions, date a lot of different kind of young men and just have that time to have fun and grow up. I met my husband in my senior year and we were married six months later. He was a return missionary and a major in architecture. I worked as a teacher to put him through school. A year later our first baby was born. What a blessing she is to us. I stay home to raise her and teach her. My husband is working and still going to school. He has one more year left. We don’t have a lot of money but having me home with our children is a high priority in our lives that we decided on before we were even married. I will use my education to help me raise my children in a home where there is truth and knowledge and as a back up if I ever need to support my family in an emergency.

I have chosen to study the scriptures and continue to learn daily to grow in truth and knowledge.

I offer you the gift of truth and knowledge.

Will you choose this gift too?

Charity

When I was in high school my young women leaders asked us to look for those who could use a friendly hello or an invitation to join us for lunch or on a group date. I didn't think it mattered much, but once a friend said that she had felt so alone and wondered if anyone really cared about her. Then I had called her and invited her to go with me to a dance and then on a group activity. She said I always said "hi" when I passed her in the hall and it meant so much to her. When others saw me include her, they began to include her too and soon she felt she had many friends. She said it all started with me. It made me feel good to think that I helped her. In my personal progress goals I also looked for ways to serve. I visited nursing homes, babysat for mothers while they went to the temple, or if they had a new baby I helped out at their homes. Now that I am a mother and a wife, I continue to look for ways to serve. Most of the time the people I serve the most are my children and my husband. They say that you learn to love the ones you serve and that is certainly true. I am thankful to be a wife and mother. I love that part of my life. I love being a mom. My husband and children appreciate the hours I put into making our house a home. But I also try to reach out to others. My children will learn service as they see our family as we carry on traditions like taking a Christmas box to a needy family secretly serving others and I feel that my family is blessed because of that service.

I have chosen to look for ways to serve others and develop charity – which is the pure love of Christ.

I offer you the gift of charity.

Will you choose to develop charity in your lives and accept this gift?



Pride

When I was in high school I was voted best dressed. I always bought the best clothes, name brands like Abercrombie, Gap, and sometimes Old Navy if it wasn't on sale. Everyone at school said I looked great. It really used to tick me off though, how my parents and church leaders would tell us to dress more modestly. I mean how could I wear knee length dresses when the cutest ones were a lot shorter? And what is wrong with tankini's? I wasn't going to have my navel pierced for nothing! I had to show off my ring! I only want the best and fashion is very important to me. I love the way I feel when I have a great outfit on, my nails are done with my hair highlighted and looks great! My parents wanted me to date the boys in our church, but to tell you the truth – I felt like I was a little too good for them. I mean, I could get dates with anyone at school that I wanted. I married a great guy who almost makes enough money to keep me happy. I got a job myself that pays for our house payment. I wanted a large, beautiful home that I could decorate just how I liked – with expensive furniture, wallpaper and window treatments. You should see some of the parties we have had here! I can tell my co-workers are jealous of all that we have. It's fun to have the best of everything – even if all our credit cards are maxed out. I do sometimes wish that I could be home with my two children more, but they like all of their expensive clothes and toys too. I doubt they would trade all of that for a mom that stays home.

I am proud of all the worldly possessions that we have and I have chosen them as a high priority in my life.

I offer you the gift of pride.

Will you choose to have pride in your life?



Worldly Pleasures

When I was a teenager I met the cutest guy. I was a cheerleader and he was on the football team. All the girls thought he was so hot! I couldn't believe it when he asked me out. He wasn't a member of the church but he was so fun and so gorgeous! It wasn't like I was going to marry him or anything. We were just having fun! My parents and church leaders were always talking to me about dating guys with high standards and not having a serious boyfriend so young. But I didn't listen to them. I mean, everyone at school had boyfriends. What's wrong with that? And besides, he might join the church later. So anyway, we dated all through my senior year and fell in love. I couldn't imagine ever being without him. So we got married after we graduated. He went to the community college and we both worked. I tried to keep going to church but that was the only day we had any time to do anything together. I needed that day to do fun stuff with my husband to keep our marriage strong. Now we've been married for five years and we have two little kids. I felt bad that my husband wasn't able to bless them in church. My dad came and did it for us. We don't go to church very often, my husband doesn't care if I go but he said he's not interested in religion. I take my kids when I go, but I feel a little out of place sitting on a bench with just me and the kids and no husband. Usually my kids don't want to go anyway – they would rather play at the lake or go hiking with dad. This wasn't how I pictured our family. I mean, I didn't really think the church was such a big deal. But now we never go to church as a family and my children won't be baptized by their father. Will they even go to church when they are teenagers if they don't want to go now and what about missions or a temple marriage for them? If I didn't set that example for them how can I expect them to reach those goals? I know that the church is true, but I don't think my children have a testimony and if they don't, what about their children and all the generations after that?

I have chosen to follow the standards set by the world, not by the Lord.

I offer you the gift of worldly pleasures. Will you choose this gift too?

Addictions and Excess

I remember the first party I ever went to. I was at my junior prom and my date's friend told us about a party going on at someone's house after prom. I didn't really want to go, but my date said we would just stop by to say "hi" and talk awhile. I knew there would be drinking there and I didn't want to go, but I didn't have the courage to tell my date no. We went in and I felt really uncomfortable, but my date seemed to be having a good time. I was surprised to see him take a drink a couple of times. After we left, I thought – well, that wasn't so bad. It's not like I really did anything wrong – I didn't drink any beer. But just going there that once made it easier to go again the next time I was invited. After a few times I felt more comfortable and found myself taking a drink once in a while just to fit in. After a while I was hanging out more at the drinking parties than at the church dances and activities. Then I started smoking once in a while and tried drugs a few times. I kept telling myself it was no big deal – I wasn't addicted or anything – I would only do it at the parties – like once a week. My Mormon friends weren't as fun to hang out with anymore. Their group dates and dances were dumb and boring. My parties were more fun and there were a lot more cute guys. I started dating the guys I met at the parties. It wasn't really my fault. None of the Mormon guys would ask me out. My parents were driving me crazy – always on my back about the way I dressed, where I was going, who I was going to be with – I had to lie to them most of the time. Finally after high school I couldn't take it anymore. When I got the tattoo – they made such a big deal about it – I moved out to an apartment with my friends. We really had some wild times then. It's weird – I look at my old Mormon friends and we seem so totally different now. They are all going to college, getting married or even having their first baby. I'm still free and having fun partying and working at Taco Bell. I hate my job but at least it gets me enough money to pay for rent and cigarettes. Yeah, I thought I'd never get hooked on those, but I guess I did. I'll probably quit as soon as I really want to – like if I ever get married and am pregnant. This life isn't as fun as I thought it would be – I thought I would be so free if I didn't have to conform to all the church rules and my parents – but it seems like now I'm stuck in a run down apartment with loser room mates that don't pay their rent half the time and I'm working at a dead end job and I'm really sick of that dumb tattoo I put on my ankle – I know that's why I never get any office jobs I apply for – well, that and the hair color maybe.

I choose to follow worldly enticing and addictions.

Will you choose to accept my gift of additions and excess?

Darkness

I left the church when I was seventeen. I never did have a testimony. My parents tried to send me to EFY and youth conferences hoping I would see that the church was true and meet some other good young men and young women. But I chose my friends from a different crowd. I liked fitting in with the gothic crowd. I started dressing all in black, I dyed my hair a dark red, pierced my tongue and got all the cool studded collars and bracelets. Everyone at school looked at us like we were freaks but it was kind of cool to get so much attention. When I was dressed like that it gave me a lot more confidence to just do whatever I wanted to – to act weird or loud or even try to scare people. I dropped out of high school, most of my friends did. We live with one of my friend's parents. We do some pretty weird stuff – we've even gotten into some witchcraft. The only thing I feel a little bad about is how far apart I feel from my family. I mean, my littlest sister got baptized last week and there was no way I could go looking the way I do. So I just went over to the house afterwards for some refreshments. I felt way out of place so I didn't stay long. But it made me feel kind of sad to think I can't even relate to my family and I don't fit in anymore. I'm like a stranger to them. Except for my brother who's fifteen. I noticed he was starting to dress like me too. It's strange – I never thought what I did would be such an influence on him.

I choose to follow Satan's ways.

I offer you the gift of darkness.

Will you choose the gift of darkness that I offer you?



Power, Ego, and Dishonesty

I have had a very successful life. I was ranked 5th in my class in high school. I admit I had to cheat a little bit to get those grades, but most of the others did too. I had fun in high school. My parents were so cool. They gave me their credit card and said to buy what I needed whenever I needed it. I shopped at the mall every week and had a new outfit for every date. They bought me a mustang convertible for my sixteenth birthday – I loved it. After high school my parents set me up in this great townhouse near ASU and put me through college. I decided to get my degree in business. I worked hard for my grades and did whatever I needed to do in order to graduate with honors. I was very proud of that degree. I was determined to get a job where I could really go somewhere and have a successful career. I was hired at an investment company. I have worked there for four years and have had two promotions with significant pay raises and benefits. I make more money now than my husband! I spend long hours at work, putting in the extra effort it takes to be successful and get the promotions I want. There are the mandatory cocktail parties to sweet talk potential clients, and the out of town business trips that come up about once a month. Right now I am hoping to be able to take over the position of Vice President at one of our offices in Colorado. How I am going to work that out with my husband's job I haven't figured out yet. We have decided to put off having a family for several years. I can't be distracted right now with kids. I love the feeling of really succeeding at something. I have had to make a few enemies at work with all the politics that go on to get the promotions and you have to lie to get ahead – but hey – it's just part of the rat race to get up the ladder of success. I've learned that along the way.

I have chosen to place my career and the power that comes from success at the top of my priority list in my life. I have a very successful career and that's more important than a family – isn't it?

I offer you the gift of power, ego, and dishonesty – of worldly success.

Will you choose this gift?

Variation on the presentation:

You can present this as a fireside or other activity. Have a narrator reading the page for each virgin as she is walking into the room, in front of the audience with a spot light on her. Continuing with all the virgins. Keep all the virgins in the front of the room until all have entered. Then they can walk out of the room and you can continue with your program how you feel you should do.

Posted by Wejann

Additional clipart and formatting added by Vickie Hacking * www.lds-yw.com



You can get this picture at this link:

<http://deseretbook.com/store/product?afid=10220&sku=1919062>