

Life of Christ

The Story of the Weeds Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43

Younger Verse

Stand firm in what you believe. Isaiah 7:9

Older Verse

If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all. Isaiah 7:9

Lesson Goals

Share the difference between weeds and good plants
See how God wants us to live lives that show we believe in Him
Let God take care of our problems

Welcome Time

Have you ever met someone that said they believed in Jesus but the things they did made you think they were not a Christian? Let's see what Jesus said about this.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Jesus liked to tell stories that had special meanings. All the stories are nice to hear, but the lessons we can learn from them are very important.

One time Jesus told a story about plants. Back in Jesus' time, many people grew wheat and other grains. The people would grind the wheat into flour and make bread.

One day, a man got his field ready to plant a crop. He got good wheat seed and planted (sowed) the seed in his rich soil. He did a good job and went to bed when the job was done.

However, in the night, an enemy came and planted weeds in the field. No one knew that the enemy did this.

Over time, the good wheat grew and grew. The weeds grew too.

One day, the helpers came to the farmer and told him the bad news. There were weeds growing with the wheat in the field. The man told the helpers that the enemy did this to his field.

The helpers asked him what to do. They wondered if they should try to pull all the weed in the field.

The man was very smart. He told them to let both grow and when it is harvest time, they could see which plants were wheat and which were weeds. They would harvest the good wheat and burn the weeds.

When Jesus' friends heard this story, they could not understand what lesson Jesus was trying to help them learn. They came to Him and asked Him to explain the story.

Jesus explained that He was like the man in the story. He is helping people know about God and how they can believe in Him.

The field is the world that we live in. The good seed is for people who believe in God and follow Him. The weeds are people who do not believe in God and the enemy is the devil.

At first, the weeds and wheat look the same. That is why the farmer let them grow together in the field. Then, when it was harvest time, the harvesters could see the difference. The wheat plant had wheat pods on it. The weeds did not.

Just like the wheat, as we grow and continue to believe in Jesus, He helps us learn more and do things God's way. People can tell that we are different because we do not do things for ourselves. We do things for God.

However, some people may say that they believe in Jesus, but they do not follow God or do things God's way. They live and do things THEIR way. They are like the weeds. They have never believed in Jesus in their hearts. They may have heard about Jesus and know who He is but they have never trusted in Him.

Jesus tells us that we have a choice to make. We can follow God and trust Him or we can do things our way. In the end, God will judge us for which decision we have made.

God loves us so much that He wants us to go to heaven one day. We could never get to heaven on our own because we make mistakes. All of us do. So, God did something very special to help us get to heaven. God sent us His only Son, Jesus. Jesus died on a cross for all the mistakes we have made. Then, He came back to life 3 days later. If we believe in Jesus in our heart and ask Him to forgive all our mistakes, He will clean out our heart and make it pure. He will help us live for God and do things His way. He promises to stay with us forever and take us to heaven one day. If you want to be like the wheat and follow Jesus, talk to us about it today.

Help the kids see how we must believe and also show others that we believe by our actions.

Learning Activities

Have everyone stand very straight and tall. Talk about what it means to "stand firm." Share how people try to get us to follow them instead of following God. Share how we must stand up for what we believe.

Memory Verse Activities

Ask God to help us follow Him and do things His way.

Prayer Time

Since we talked about wheat today, you may want to bring bread and butter as a snack. Another idea is wheat crackers.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Planning for June 15th
The story of the Mustard Seed and Yeast
Matthew 13:31-35

Preschool Lesson
For
The story of the weeds

One day, Jesus told a story to his friends.

Once upon a time, there was a farmer. He had a beautiful field to plant seeds. It had rich dark soil just right to grow big, tall plants.

One day, the farmer planted good wheat seed in the soil. He worked very hard to spread the seeds everywhere. He watered the ground and took care of the little seeds.

However, secretly in the night, someone came and planted weeds in the field too. Weeds are bad plants.

Over time, the good plants grew and so did the bad weeds. Some of the workers saw that there were weeds mixed in with the good plants. They ran to the farmer to tell him the bad news. They asked him what they should do.

The farmer told them to wait until harvest time. At harvest time, the wheat would have grain on it and the weeds would not. The helpers could see the difference and harvest the grain on the wheat.

God took care of the farmer and they harvested the good wheat. Women crushed the wheat to make flour. The flour made delicious bread for their family.

Instead of getting angry about the weeds, the farmer knew that God would take care of everything. Sure enough, they harvested the wheat seeds and made something delicious out of it.

When bad things happen to us, instead of fighting back, we need to pray and ask God to help us. God will take care of everything for us. He loves us and wants to help us.

Sing, "God is so Good."

Hands-on Activities
For
The story of the Weeds

Take a group of kids outside to pull weeds. Make sure they know which plants are good and which are bad.

Plant a seed and watch it grow together. If you will not be at the church often, make a terrarium out of a milk jug or plastic soda bottle. The closed top keeps moisture inside and “waters” the plant while you are not there.

What does it mean to be a Christian and live for God? Some people say that they believe in Jesus but the things they do seem to show that they only love themselves. God wants us to love Him with all our heart and walk in His ways. That means we must do things God’s way and follow Him. There is a difference between knowing Jesus in your head and knowing Jesus in your heart. The “weed people” know Jesus in their heads but have never trusted Jesus in their hearts. Jesus wants us to trust Him with all our heart and follow him.

In our story, God took care of the enemy. In our lives, we must let God take care of people. We must not take revenge. Let God work out the problem.

One day God will judge us. That means He will ask us what we believe. It does not have to be a scary thing. If we love God, we should be proud to tell others and stand up for what we believe. Talk about what it means to stand up for what we believe.