

Life of Christ

The Story of the Weeds

Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43

Younger Verse

God will reveal who his children really are. Romans 8:19

Older Verse

All creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. Romans 8:19

Lesson Goals

Understand what it means to be a child of God
Recognize that evil and good are both present in this world
Learn that one day Jesus will return and take believers to Heaven

Welcome Time

Today we will be talking about weeds. **Ask: Do you know what weeds are?** Weeds can damage the other plants by stealing their nourishment. People who plant flowers or other plants try to keep the weeds away from their garden.

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 before teaching it. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Last week, we talked about a parable that Jesus told. Do you remember what a parable is? (a story that teaches a lesson) Today we will look at another parable Jesus told. It is also about a planter of seed.

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 farmer got his field ready to plant a crop. He planted wheat seed in his rich soil. However, in the night, an enemy came and planted weeds in the field! No one knew that the enemy had done this. But once the seed began to grow, the workers saw the weeds growing among the wheat.

The workers told the farmer that there were weeds growing with the wheat. The farmer told them that the enemy did this to his field. The helpers asked him what to do. They wondered if they should try to pull out all the weeds in the field.

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

Over time, the good wheat grew and grew. The weeds grew, too. At first, the weeds and wheat looked 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. They threw away the weeds and saved the wheat.

When Jesus' friends heard this story, they could not understand the meaning. They came to Him and asked Him to explain the story.

Jesus explained that He was like the farmer 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 represents the people who believe in Jesus and follow Him. The weeds are people who do not believe in Jesus, and the enemy is the devil.

Some people may *say* that they believe in Jesus, but they do not have Jesus in their heart. They are like the weeds. They may have heard about Jesus and know who He is, but they have never trusted in Him. Even though the wheat and weeds are together in the world, one day they will be separated. Jesus will come and take the believers with Him to Heaven.

Do you want to know that you are a child of God? The Bible makes it clear that you can be *sure* that you are saved from your sins. Romans 10:9 says that if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

People who have given their lives to Christ will begin to look different than the rest of the world. Like the wheat looked different from the weeds, others will see the difference. They will see the kindness in our lives. They will see the joy and peace that only come from God.

Review Questions

1. What two plants grew together? (wheat and weeds)
2. In the story Jesus told, what did the wheat represent? (believers in Jesus) And the weeds? (people who do not believe in Jesus)
3. Who did the farmer represent in the story? (Jesus)
4. How will God separate the good wheat from the weeds? (When Jesus returns He will take the believers with Him to Heaven)

Prayer Time

Thank God that we can know we are His children when we trust Jesus as our Savior. Pray for those who do not yet know Jesus.

Life Application

Would it make sense for a wheat plant to try to look like a weed? Of course not. Yet sometimes those who believe in Jesus try to act and look like people who are not following Jesus!

We need to make sure we are living the way God wants us to live. We don't need to "blend in" with those who are not living for God. What are some ways we will look different than the rest of the world? (the words we use/don't use; the way we treat others; shows we watch/don't watch; places we go/don't go)

Let's live as true children of God—not as weeds!

Planning for Next Lesson
The Mustard Seed and the Yeast
Matthew 13:31-34

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 would be able to 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

Bring gardening tools, like a shovel, hoe, etc. Explain what it means to put a seed in the ground and how it grows.

Bring pictures of wheat plants and weeds. Let them find the differences in their appearance. Talk about how Jesus knows the difference in people who are His followers and those who are not.

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.

Show the Veggie Tales “The Rumor Weed.” It talks about a small weed that grows each time someone spreads gossip. It is a good reminder that we cannot let weeds of sin grow up in our lives!