



FAITH AT HOME

Aldersgate Church ~ St. Louis Park, MN

Week of February 12, 2023: Matthew 13:24-43

Memory Verse

Matthew 13:43: Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

Family Prayer

Dear God, help us accept people as they are. Remind us that you alone are the judge, not us. Help us to see the small things that we can change or do that can make a big difference. Amen.



The Story

Theme of the story: Theme of the story: Jesus often taught with parables or stories. Since the people he was talking to were people who farm or fish, he would use examples that they could understand. The parables in this passage are related to farming.

At first, the parable of the weeds thrown among the wheat seeds might seem a bit odd, or even negative and judgmental. Why would we separate the “bad seeds”, and throw them away to be burned? Does this mean we ought to shun those who are not deemed good enough? On the contrary, the parable teaches quite the opposite. The farmer (God) will dictate which plants to keep and which to throw away. God will judge the people. It is for God to determine, not us. The object of this lesson is to communicate to children that we have difficulty discerning things by sight, and it is not our job to do so.

The Parable of Weeds Among the Wheat



In today's parable, Jesus talked about how some weeds got mixed in among good seeds.

A farmer was planting wheat, but an enemy came at night and threw in some weed plants so that they would get mixed up with the wheat. After the plants came up, the workers asked if they should try to pluck them out, and the farmer told them to wait until they grew, and then let the farmer decide which ones were good and which needed tossed out. The weeds were gathered and burned. The wheat was gathered and put in the barn.

Activity: Little to Big

You will need: paper towel or unfolded napkin, small piece of sponge wet with colored water

A lesson on how small things can become big: Lay out the paper towel or napkin, place the wet sponge in the middle and watch the water spread. The sponge seems very small but the water in the sponge will spread and wet the whole paper towel.

Craft: Planting Seeds

You will need: seeds, paper cup or small pot, dirt

Plant the seeds. Each time when you water the seeds, pray for someone. Talk about what seeds need: soil, water, and sunshine. God provides for plants and God provides for us. An extension of this would be to plant a vegetable garden or flowers (from seeds) and discuss/compare the size of the seeds to the harvest or resulting flowers.

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What does that mean? Good people are like the wheat and bad people are like the weeds. God is the farmer. The farmer decides which plant to keep and which should be burned. He is the ultimate judge of a person's heart. In the end, there are some people who will reject God's grace, and will not go to Heaven. But it is not our job to decide who those people are.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

Jesus told another parable. He said that the kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches. Jesus is reminding us that things might look very small at the beginning but they can become something much bigger and end up making a huge difference! There were only a few people who knew Jesus as their friend and believed in him to start with but the number of people who followed Jesus and became his friend grew and grew, just like that mustard seed! One person sharing the good news of Jesus with another person and that person then sharing that news with someone else and so on and so on grew the ministry of Jesus. After a while, Jesus had lots of followers and the Kingdom of God had grown, just like that mustard seed that grew into a big tree!

Family discussion: Small things can make a difference, such as small acts of kindness. Is there a time that you are your child did something small but it had a big impact? For older children, discuss how we sometimes judge people. We judge how they talk, what they wear, how smart or athletic they are. What can we do to keep from being so judgmental? How can we look at things from the other person's perspective?