

WARM-UP

- Talk about any experience you have had with gardening or being in a garden.
- Tell us about one of your favorite childhood memories with your cousins or friends.
- When was the last time you had to wait for something? Tell us what happened.

WORD *He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field . . ." MATTHEW 13:24*

(Read also **MATTHEW 13:25-30.**)

The kingdom of heaven is God's everlasting dominion, of which His children and creation are only a small part. This is something that we as His people look forward to, but it is also happening here and now. This means that we have a part to play in advancing His kingdom. While He was on earth, Jesus told many parables that can help us understand more about God's kingdom. What does the parable of the weeds tell us about the kingdom of heaven?

1 | Both good and evil are sown into the world.

²⁴He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away." **MATTHEW 13:24,25**

Jesus explains that *the field is the world and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom* (Matthew 13:38). God has sown us, His children, as good seeds into the world. However, there is an enemy that has sown weeds among the seeds of wheat. Evil and sin are sown into the world along with the righteousness of God. If the weeds were to be uprooted, the wheat will be pulled out as well. So the master in the parable let them grow together. What does this mean for us as we live on the earth? How can we continue to serve God and become more Christlike in the midst of sin and suffering?

2 | There will be a harvest at the end of the age.

³⁰“Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.” . . . ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.” **MATTHEW 13:30,43**

Though on earth it is sometimes difficult to distinguish evil from good, at the harvest the wheat and the weeds will be properly separated for the final judgment. At the *end of the age*, which is the harvest in the parable, God will gather His people to Himself (Matthew 13:39). The weeds, which are *causes of sin and law-breakers*, will also be gathered and thrown into the *fiery furnace*. Then the righteous will shine brightly, reflecting the righteousness of God. According to Revelation 7:9, from where is God gathering His people?

APPLICATION

- It is not till the harvest that evil is done away with and the righteous shine forth. What will you do when you see the evil and brokenness in the world? How will you shine God's righteousness?
- What does it mean to be a child of the kingdom of God? What are some ways that you live it out?
- What is a practical way you are letting your light shine brightly to the world? To whom can you share the good news that we can be children of God through Jesus Christ?

