

Activities for "Parable of the Seeds and Weeds" - Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (19th July)

Today we hear another seed parable. A parable is a story with a hidden meaning.

Different plants

Talk about different plants that grow - trees, flowers, shrubs, vegetables, wheat. Can you name any? Why do people grow plants? They might be for food, to look nice, to help insects, to cover ground, to provide shelter, to give us oxygen. Go for a walk in your garden or a park and notice all the different plants. Which is your favourite? Thank God for all the different flowers, plants, and trees.

Sorting seeds

Look at different seeds from seed packets such as bean, radish, lettuce, sunflower, nasturtium, nigella, cress. Notice what they grow in to. Mix up two packets of seeds. What would happen if you planted them like this? Would one plant grow stronger than the other? Sort the seeds into the two different types.

Draw and cut the story

Draw the story as you tell it. Begin with a square field and add little yellow wheat seeds, sown by the good farmer. Then draw little green weed seeds, sown by the bad person at night. Draw the yellow wheat growing out of the wheat seeds and the green weeds growing from the weed seeds. Cut out the wheat and the weeds separately and sort them into different piles. Throw the weed pictures away but keep the wheat pictures. Ask God to help you "weed out" the bad things you do.

Wheat and weeds pictures

Print off the picture of wheat and weeds. Colour in the pictures and cut out the individual plants. Stick the wheat plants on a sheet of paper and the weed plants on some greaseproof paper. Staple one edge of the greaseproof paper to the other sheet. Lift up the sheet to remove the weeds and let the wheat grow.

Wondering

Rather than explaining the parable, wonder with your child about what it might mean. I wonder who the farmer could really be? I wonder how the farmer felt when he saw the weeds growing? I wonder what happens to plants when weeds grow next to them? I wonder why the farmer didn't pull them up at once? I wonder what the wheat seeds and weed seeds mean? I wonder what your favourite part of the story is? I wonder what the hidden meaning in the story is? I wonder what Jesus was trying to teach people?