

# 21



## THE WHEAT AND THE WEEDS

### Trusting God's Judgement

YEAR 2 – KINGDOM LIFE

UNIT 7: KINGDOM FAITH

## 1 | Teacher's Notes

**Scripture** Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43; Luke 6:27-28; Romans 12:21

**Objectives** To explain that

- Today's story is about Kingdom Faith and trust in God and his judgement.
- Jesus told the story of the wheat and the weeds as a picture of his judgement of evil in the world.
- Jesus is sowing the good seeds of his Kingdom in the world, but the enemy, Satan, is sowing evil.
- The wheat that grows from the good seed are those who follow and obey Jesus. The tares that grow from the bad seed are those who do evil.
- God wants as many people as possible to turn from their sin and be saved. Only God knows the future, and we need to trust that his will is best.
- One day Jesus will come back to judge all the people who ever lived. Then he will judge evil once and for all, and all that was wrong will be made right.
- While we wait for God to judge evil, Jesus calls us to love our enemies and pray for them.

**Memory Verse** "Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you... And pray for those who treat you badly." (Luke 6: 27-28 – NIRV)

**ACNA Catechism Connections** Today's story of The Wheat and the Weeds is connected to the following Catechism questions:

Q211 If God is good, why does he permit evil? God created rational creatures free to love, obey, and worship him, but we have used our freedom to reject his love, rebel

against him, and choose evil. Yet no evil can thwart God's purposes, and he is able to use evil to bring about even greater good.

Q212 Is God responsible for evil? No. The sinful choices of his creatures do not implicate God in evil in any way.

Q213 Did evil exist before the human race embraced it? Yes. Satan had already opposed God and chosen evil when he tempted Adam and Eve.

Q214 What are Satan and his demons? Demons, of whom Satan is chief, are fallen angels. Satan rebelled against God and led other angels to follow him. They now cause spiritual and sometimes physical harm to mortals, and they sow lies that lead to confusion, despair, sin, and death.

Q217 How does God overcome evil in this world? God has triumphed over all the powers of evil through the death, resurrection, and ascension of his Son, Jesus Christ. God will finally destroy all evil, including death, at the end of the age.

Q77 Can we know when Jesus will return? No. We cannot know when Jesus will return. Jesus patiently waits for many to repent and trust in him for new life; then he will return unexpectedly, which could be at any moment.

Q79 How should you understand Jesus' future judgment? All people, whether living or dead, will be judged by Jesus Christ. Those apart from Christ will receive eternal rejection and punishment in hell, while those who are in Christ will receive eternal blessing and welcome into the fullness of life with God.

Q108 How should you respond to God's forgiveness? Trusting in God's continual forgiveness, I should live in continual thanks, praise, and obedience to him; and as I have been loved and forgiven by God, so I should love and forgive those who sin against me.

Q120 How should you live in light of this promise of unending life? I should live in joyful expectation of the fullness of my transformation, soul and body, into the likeness of Christ. In the midst of suffering or in the face of hostility and persecution, I am sustained by the hope of a new heaven and earth, freed from Satan, evil, suffering, and death.

**Suggested  
Materials,  
Props, and  
Costumes****Big story props:**

- Large Bible
- Kingdom Life storyboard (see photo)

**Lesson Props:** (see Props Document for instructions on how to make these)

- Posters from the Good Samaritan story (Year 2, Lesson 18) and the Fiery Furnace story (Year 2, Lesson 20)
- Tray with soil or compost
- One glass jar labeled "Wheat" with light-coloured seeds in it. Another glass jar labeled "Weeds" with dark-coloured seeds in it. Remove lids before story starts.
- One picture of unripe wheat/tares, and one of ripe wheat/tares
- "The World" globe picture
- Cards to attach to jars: "Follow and obey Jesus", "Do evil". Blu tac to attach cards to jars.
- Picture of a heart, a clock, and a repentance arrow. Cover the last two with post-it notes to be revealed during the lesson.
- Storyboard symbol: Picture of ripe wheat/tares - "God will judge evil"
- A second copy of the memory verse for the story

**Memory Verse:** "Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you... And pray for those who treat you badly." (Luke 6: 27-28 – NIRV)

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan) Print out and place in large Bible.

## 2 | Lesson Outline:

<b>Welcome</b>	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
<b>Greeting &amp; Collect for Purity</b>	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity ( <i>see Resource Section</i> )
<b>Prayer of Confession</b>	Say the Prayer of Confession ( <i>see Resource Section</i> ) Extinguish the candles
<b>Music</b>	My God is so big, so strong and so mighty Our God is a Great Big God Trust and Obey (Worshiphousekids.com) <b><i>Please check internet for lyrics and music.</i></b>
<b>Review of foundations</b>	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment. <b><i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i></b>
<b>Reading</b>	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
<b>Story Board Review</b>	Ask review questions relating to props from previous lessons on story board. <b><i>Story board review is found in Section 4</i></b>
<b>Props/Costumes</b>	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) <b>Big story props:</b> Large Bible, Kingdom Life storyboard
<b>Bible Story</b>	<b><i>Proceed with story and questions found in Section 4.</i></b>
<b>Related activities</b>	<b><i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i></b>
<b>Preparation for Communion &amp; leaving class</b>	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <b><i>See Resource Section.</i></b>

### 3 | Storyboard Progression



This is how the storyboard should look at the **start** of the lesson



This is how the Kingdom Faith section should look at the **end** of the lesson. Leave the storyboard like this for next week.

## 4 | Story and Questions

**SETUP:** *Set up two teaching stations. At the first station, have the tray of soil and seed jars ready, and a wall or easel within reach to place pictures on. Set up the storyboard at the second station. Start the lesson at the first station.*

**BIBLE:** *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Today's story is from the Bible, and it is about Kingdom Faith.'*

### **STORY:**

**TEACHER:** Today we are going to talk about why God allows people to do bad things in the world. How can we trust God and have faith that he will make all things right in the end?

In some of our stories we have heard about people doing evil things to others. *(Hold up Good Samaritan poster)* What happened to the man in this picture? Yes, an innocent man was attacked by robbers. *(Hold up the Fiery Furnace poster)* And in this story, three men were thrown into the fiery furnace just because they had been faithful to God.

Why does God allow bad things like this to happen? *(Show heart picture)* God in his great love has given us free will. That means that we are free to choose to love and obey God, or to make selfish and sinful choices.

Why does God not judge all evil now? *(reveal clock picture)* God is waiting because he gives people time – time to repent of their sins *(reveal repentance arrow)*, to turn to him and be saved.

Jesus answered these questions by telling a story (a parable) about wheat and weeds. *(Bring out seed jars.)*

In this story a man was sowing wheat seeds. *(Pour a few seeds from "wheat" jar into your hand. Show the children the seeds.)* Wheat is a good grain that can be used to make bread. The man was sowing these seeds in his field. *(Sprinkle seeds over the soil in the tray.)*

But while everyone was sleeping, an enemy came and sowed a different kind of seed in the same field. *(Pour a few seeds from "weeds" jar into your hand.)* These

were poisonous seeds for a weed called "tares". (*Sprinkle seeds over the soil in the tray.*)

The problem was that as the wheat and the tares were growing, they looked almost exactly the same. (*Put picture of green wheat/tares up on wall or easel.*)

It was hard to tell them apart until they were ripe and ready to harvest. The roots of the bad tares were tangled up with the roots of the good wheat.

Therefore, the owner of the field told his workers to wait until the wheat was ripe. (*Put picture of ripe wheat/tares below the other picture on wall/easel.*) Then it would be possible to tell which was the wheat and which were the tares. The wheat and the tares would be harvested together. The tares would be separated from the wheat and burned. The wheat would be gathered and placed in the barn.

Jesus told this story as a picture of how he would judge evil in the world.

The field represents the world and people. (*Put picture of the world onto tray with soil.*) The owner of the field is Jesus. He is sowing the good seeds of God's Kingdom in the world (*sow a few more wheat seeds*). The good wheat that grows from these seeds are the people who follow and obey Jesus. (*Put "Follow and obey Jesus" on the wheat jar.*)

The enemy is Satan. He was an angel who rebelled against God and was cast out of heaven. He is the enemy who is still sowing his seeds of evil in the world (*sow a few more weed seeds*). Those who believe Satan's lies and obey him, do evil. (*Put "Do evil" label on jar.*)

But why doesn't God get rid of all evil **now**? (*Show heart/clock/arrow picture*) God in his great **love** is waiting because he wants to give as many people as possible **time to repent**, to turn away from their sin and be saved.

Let's go over to our storyboard and talk more about this.

**ACTION:** *Move over to the storyboard. Bring the "weeds" jar with you, along with the picture of ripe wheat and tares.*

**TEACHER:** (*Point to flashlight on storyboard.*) Do you remember what this flashlight represents? (*Jesus came to seek and save the lost, those who don't know Jesus but are ruled by sin.*)

We might think that God should get rid of evil people right now (*hold up weeds jar*), but perhaps one day they will turn to Jesus and be saved (*point to cross*). None of us are saved because we are good. We have all sinned to some degree

and Jesus died for everyone's sins. Only God knows the future and who will turn to him. God is perfectly loving and wise, and we can trust that he knows best.

One day Jesus will come back to the earth to judge all the people who ever lived. That is the harvest time in today's story (*hold up picture of ripe wheat and tares*). Jesus will separate the wheat from the tares, the good from the evil. At that time, God will judge (destroy) evil once and for all and will restore his perfect creation. Then there will be no more sin and evil, but only love and life. (*Point to "love" and "life" on storyboard.*)

While we wait for that time, Jesus is calling us to do something that is really remarkable! He is calling us to not take revenge, but to love and forgive our enemies!

Let's all read what Jesus says in today's memory verse (*hold up memory verse*):

**ALL:** "Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you... And pray for those who treat you badly."

**TEACHER:** When someone treats us badly, we should first tell a grown up that we trust, so they can help us. But we can pray for the person who hurt us, that they will turn from their sin (*point to repentance arrow*) and follow Jesus (*point to Jesus*).

Jesus loved his enemies so much that he died to rescue them (that's us!) from sin. Jesus wants **us** to love our enemies too, and trust that one day he will judge all evil.

(*Put wheat and tares symbol on storyboard.*) Let's put this picture on our storyboard to remind us to love and pray for our enemies and trust that God will one day judge evil. On that glorious day, all that was wrong will be made right.

### **Life Application Prayer:**

**TEACHER:** Heavenly Father, thank you that you are perfectly loving and wise. You know all things. You know the future and who will turn to you and be saved. Help us to trust that in your perfect timing, when Jesus returns to the earth, you will judge all evil, and sin and death will be no more. While we wait for that glorious day, help us to love and pray for everyone, even our enemies. Amen.

**SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:**

- **What does this story tell us about Jesus?** (Jesus is sowing good seeds of his Kingdom in the world. Jesus will judge evil when he comes back to the earth.)
- What does the field represent in this story? (The world)
- Is Jesus sowing good seeds of his Kingdom in the world? (Yes.)
- What is the good wheat that is growing up from those seeds? (Those who follow and obey Jesus)
- What is the enemy, Satan, sowing in the world? (Evil)
- Can those who do evil turn from their sin and start following Jesus? (Yes)
- When will God judge evil once and for all? (When Jesus comes back to the earth.)
- Why does God not judge all evil now? (God in his great love is waiting because he wants to give as many people as possible time to repent and be saved.)
- What does Jesus call us to do while we wait for God to judge evil? (Love our enemies and pray for them. Trust God's judgement in the end.)
- Is it important to tell a grown-up when someone treats us badly? (Yes, so they can help us.)

## 5 | Response Activities

### **Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement**

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

### **Optional activities**

- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers

"Love your enemies.  
Do good to those who  
hate you... And pray  
for those who treat  
you badly."

(Luke 6: 27-28)