



"Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you...
And pray for those who treat you badly."
Luke 6: 27-28

Lesson 21: *The Wheat and the Weeds* (Condensed Version)

Saint Matthew's Anglican Church Children's Ministries

TRUSTING GOD'S JUDGEMENT (Scripture: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43)

Year 2. Kingdom Life
Unit 7: Kingdom Faith

Objectives: To explain that: *Today's story is about faith and trust in God and his judgement *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. We can trust that his will is best. * Jesus will come back to judge evil, and all that was wrong will be made right. * Jesus calls us to love our enemies and pray for them.

"I Wonder" Questions: *What do you see in this picture? *I wonder what seeds the man is sowing. *I wonder why there are pictures of the world, Jesus and the cross. *The last picture says, "God will judge evil". I wonder when that will happen. Let's find out more in our lesson...

Lesson Props: Year 2 Posters: Lesson 18 – The Good Samaritan and Lesson 20 - The Fiery Furnace

Lesson Summary: 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. *(Show Good Samaritan poster)* What happened to the man in this picture? Yes, an innocent man was attacked by robbers. *(Show 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? Why doesn't he judge all evil now? Jesus answered this question by telling this story (a parable) about wheat and weeds. There was a man who sowed wheat seeds in his field. *(Point to wheat)* Wheat is a good grain that can be used to make bread. But while everyone was sleeping, an enemy came and sowed a different kind of seed in the same field. *(Point to tares)* These were poisonous seeds for a weed called "tares". The wheat and the tares grew together and looked so much alike that they could not be easily separated until harvest time. *(Point to ripe plants)* When they were ripe, the wheat would be saved, and the tares destroyed. Jesus told this story as a picture of how he will one day judge evil in the world. The field in the story represents the world and people. *(Point to world)* The owner of the field is Jesus. *(Point to Jesus)* He is sowing the good seeds of God's Kingdom in the world. The good wheat that grows up are those who follow and obey Jesus. The enemy who sowed the tares is Satan. Even today, he is still sowing his seeds of evil in the world. Those who believe his lies and obey him do evil. But why doesn't God get rid of all evil now? God is waiting because he wants as many people as possible to repent, to turn away from their sin and be saved. 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. *(Point to ripe plants)* That is the harvest time in today's story. 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. There will be no more sin and evil, but only love and life. While we wait for that time, Jesus tells us to not take revenge, but to love, forgive and pray for our enemies! *(Read verse)* Jesus loved his enemies so much that he died on the cross 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. On that glorious day, all that was wrong will be made right!

Suggested Questions: *What does the field represent? (The world/people) *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? *(So that more people can turn to him and be saved) *What does Jesus tell 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. But we can pray for the person who hurt us, that they will turn from their sin and follow Jesus)

Bible 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