

## Church at Home Pack – 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021

Join us in church for our 10:30am service on Sunday or watch live at home on

<https://ccwsm.org.uk/service-type/sunday-service-online/>

If you like, join in with the discussion on Facebook with our church family (@ccwsm)!

**In some sections we make several suggestions of ideas. Some may be more appropriate to you or the different people in your family or life group than others. We're not expecting you to do all of them (although you are very welcome to!) Choose the ones which best suit you.**

*Our verse for the year is the same as last year's verse as we think about the difference being with Jesus makes to our lives*

**When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.**

*Acts 4:13*

### GATHER TOGETHER

#### ***A prayer to start –***

Lord, we gather and we pause to think about your world:  
such a beautiful place.

We want everything to be perfect, but we accept it is far  
from that.

So, bring us together to learn from you how to be your  
presence in the world,

how to create a right environment  
and be fruitful for you in all we do.

Keep us always watchful and prayerful.

**Amen.**

#### **Action reminder –**

From the top of my head

*(Touch head)*

to the tips of my toes;

*(Touch toes)*

from the lobes of my ears

*(Touch ear lobes)*

to the end of my nose;

*(Touch nose)*

from my back, to my front

*(Turn round)*

to my wiggly fingers,

*(stretch out arms and wiggle fingers)*

God loves me!

*(jump up and down)*



## READ TOGETHER

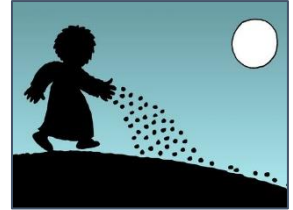
Matthew 13: 24 - 30



### International Children's Bible (ICB)



<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus told them another story. He said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who planted good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup> That night, when everyone was asleep, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat. Then the enemy went away.



<sup>26</sup> Later, the wheat grew and heads of grain grew on the wheat plants. But at the same time the weeds also grew. <sup>27</sup> Then the man's servants came to him and said, 'You planted good seed in your field. Where did the weeds come from?' <sup>28</sup> The man answered, 'An enemy planted weeds.' The servants asked, 'Do you want us to pull up the weeds?' <sup>29</sup> The man answered, 'No, because when you pull up the weeds, you might also pull up the wheat. <sup>30</sup> Let the weeds and the wheat grow together until the harvest time. At harvest time I will tell the workers this: First gather the weeds and tie them together to be burned. Then gather the wheat and bring it to my barn.'"

### New International Version (NIV)

<sup>24</sup> Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup> But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away.



<sup>26</sup> When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

<sup>27</sup> "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?'

<sup>28</sup> "'An enemy did this,' he replied.

"The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

<sup>29</sup> "'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. <sup>30</sup> Let both grow together until the harvest.



At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"



## A tale for younger children

Once upon a time, a farmer sowed some good wheat seeds in his field. However, while he and everyone else in his house were asleep, a baddie crept into the field and sowed some weeds there too. Then, very quietly, he crept away, and nobody saw what he had done.

Well, the sun shone and the rain fell day after day and the plants began to grow. The good wheat came up... and so did the weeds. Some of the people who worked for the farmer came to see him.

'Where did all these weeds come from?' they said.

'A baddie has done this,' replied the farmer.

'Shall we pull up all the weeds?' asked the workers.



'No,' said the farmer. 'If you do that, you might pull up the wheat as well. Wait until harvest time.'

So when harvest time came, they pulled up the weeds first, and bundled them up, ready to be burned. Then they pulled up the wheat and stored it in the barn.

Later on, Jesus' friends asked him what the parable meant. He told them that the field was like the world and he was like the farmer sowing the good seeds. The good seeds are the people who love and follow him. The weeds are like all the bad things in the world and in us that need to be taken out and destroyed.

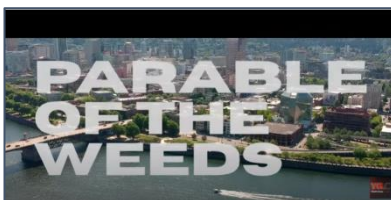
## WATCH TOGETHER



**The Parable of the Weeds** – Chelmsford Church:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yMe5U1CrK3E>

(Child-friendly)



**Parable of the Weeds** – Youth Creative CHC:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-zGv4HZEwc>

## TALK TOGETHER

- What are the good seeds in the world?
- What are the weeds in the world that we want God to put right?
- What are the good seeds in our own lives?
- What are the weeds in our own life that we want God to help us deal with?

## STUDY TOGETHER

### **Read Matthew 13:24-30**

One of the reasons Jesus told parables was to make people think.

What do you take away from this story the first time you read/hear it?

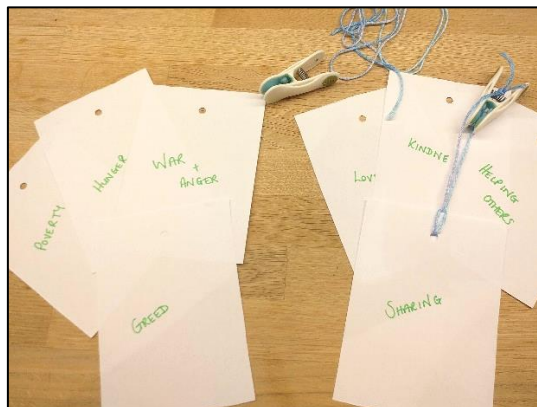
### **Now read Matthew 13:36-43**

If people were curious enough about his parables, they came and asked Jesus what they meant. Jesus explained this parable to his disciples.

- He tells us that the sower, the field, the good seed, the weed and the enemy in the story all represent someone/thing. What do they represent?
  - Does that help you to understand the parable better?
- Jesus goes on to talk about what will happen at the end of the age. He uses picture language to explain something that's difficult for us to imagine. What does he say will happen and what do you think it means?
- Terry talked about trusting God to deal appropriately with the 'harvest'. The parable is not suggesting that we should try to deal with the evil, but that we should wait for God. How easy or difficult do you find it to trust God when you see people acting badly or bad situations in the world?
- Is there any encouragement or reassurance in this parable? What is the message of hope here?
- It can be easy to overlook the 'wheat' around us and see only the 'weeds' but the parable speaks of both growing. The wheat still bears grain even with the weeds surrounding it. What signs of God's kingdom can be seen where you are?
- What do you think Jesus meant when he said, "Whoever has ears, let them hear"?

## PLAY TOGETHER

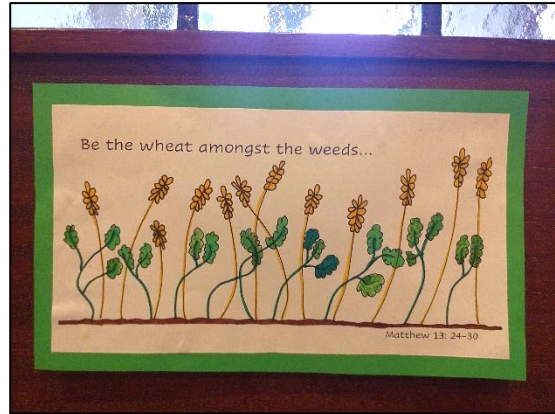
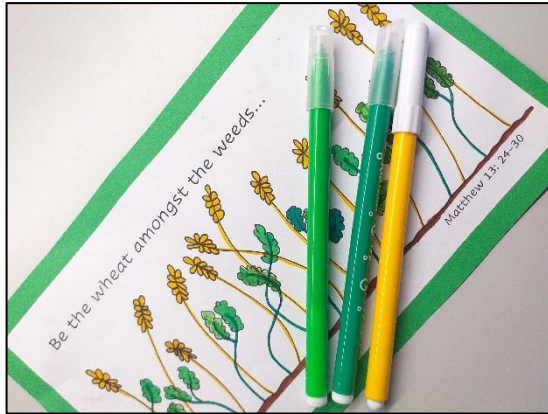
Cut several A4 pieces of paper or card into four pieces each. Divide them into two equal piles. On each piece of card in one pile write some bad things that happen in this world (we'll call these 'weeds' like in our story). On each piece of card in the other pile write some good things that happen (we'll call these 'wheat' like in our story). Punch a hole in the top of each card and tie a long piece of string or cotton through the hole. Attach a clothes peg to each piece of string. Jumble them all up and put them in a bucket or large bowl. When you're ready, time yourself to see how long it takes you to untangle all the 'weeds' from the 'wheat'. You could do this as a competition, seeing who can get the fastest time.



## MAKE TOGETHER

### ***Be the wheat amongst the weeds...***

As a reminder of what this parable teaches us, make a sign to go on the back of your front door. Look at it as you leave your home and ask God to help you be the wheat – to live as he would want you to despite being surrounded by the weeds, all the bad things in the world.



## SING TOGETHER

***Harvest Samba*** – Out of the Ark Music (Makaton by Singing Hands):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UtbpkthPPBQ>

***We see the fruitful harvest*** – Engageworship: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMpM65Ez2hc>

***Wheat and tares*** – The Windtalkers: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vepaLKGfb2k>

***I will trust in you*** – Lifeway Kids: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TIJU3te81Dg>

## REFLECT TOGETHER



From newspapers and magazines you may have in your home, cut out pictures of flowers and plants and pictures or words which represent bad things happening in the world (e.g. wars, cruelty, etc.). Place them on the table or floor in front of you.

Spend some time looking at the pictures of flowers/plants. Remember that he describes his people as 'good seed'. How can you work with God to grow into a healthy, beautiful, fruitful plant?

Now spend some time looking at the pictures or words showing the bad things that people do to each other that spoil God's world. Ask God to help and comfort those who have been hurt and pray that those who are doing wrong will discover God's goodness and be transformed by Jesus.



**OR**

Look at these two paintings of this parable and reflect on what they say to you.



'The Tares', Sir John Everett Millais, 1864



'Grain and weeds', James B. Janknegt, 2001

## PRAY TOGETHER

### *Seeds and weeds*



If you have a garden or some window plants, as you weed say sorry for the times when you behave like weeds.

When you're planting seeds or new plants, thank God for making you into good seed and ask him to help you share his goodness with those you meet.



Father God,

As we look around your world, we see so much that is good, and so much that is upsetting and bad. We pray that we will do our part in making the world a better place, and look forward to the day when you put everything right.

**Amen.**

## DO TOGETHER

### ***And today's news is...***

Watch today's news or an episode of CBBC's 'Newsround'.

Do the stories make you feel happy or sad? Do any of the stories show places where God's world is being spoilt by people behaving badly?

Do any of the stories show signs of God's kingdom, places where God is at work?



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*Action Reminder, prayers, a tale for younger children, Play Together, Talk Together, some Study Together questions, and Reflect Together taken or adapted from*

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