



WHEAT & WEEDS

Lesson 15

BIG IDEA

Jesus Christ planted His own special people in the world, just as a farmer plants his own special seeds in his farmland.

KEY VERSES

Matthew 13:24-40

MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 13:37-38a

“He answered, ‘The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom...’”

• PREPARATION & MATERIALS •

BIBLE LESSON: INTERACTIVE

- Child volunteers will participate in a short skit
- Team member or EM staff plays “the farmer”

GAME

- Balloons in several sizes

CRAFT

- Experience Mission provides scissors, hole punch, stapler, staples, rulers
- Green pipe cleaners, several per child
- Colored pipe cleaners, several per child

WORKSHEETS

- Photocopies of Coloring Sheet (1 per child)
- Photocopies of Work Sheet (domestic communities only)





WHEAT & WEEDS

BIBLE LESSON • INTERACTIVE

lesson 15

Note – This bible lesson is printed in its entirety with permission from truthforchildren.org. Feel free to shorten the lesson according to the needs of your group of children.

1. Today we are going to talk about a parable about wheat and tares. Tares are another word for weeds. Do you all remember what a parable is? It is a story our Lord Jesus Christ uses to teach us a spiritual truth. Can we see spiritual things? No, because we are not born with eyes that can see spiritual things. That is one of the main things we lost when our father Adam sinned in the garden. (Cover your ears) We can't hear God; (Cover your eyes) we can't see God and (Cover your mouth) we can't speak to God. Could we do all these things before Adam sinned? Yes, but now we cannot because we inherited the same dead spiritual nature our father Adam had. (Point to a child and say) "Who do you look like in your family?" - Why do you look like them, and you don't look like a dog or a rabbit? It is because your father is human and you came from your father and inherited his nature. That is why we are born blind, deaf, and dumb when it comes to understanding spiritual things. We inherited our father Adam's dead, sinful nature.

2. How can we get that nature back? Can we work and try really hard to do good so we can see spiritual things? No. That is silly. Let me show you why. Everybody close your eyes. Now I want you to point to something red in the room, but you cannot open your eyes. Can you do it? NO! Why? It is because you cannot point to and see something when you are blind to it. You cannot hear something when are deaf and cannot hear sounds. You cannot speak about something you don't know, can you? That is why we cannot get our spiritual life back. It died in Adam and there is only one way to get it back. It has to be given to us. A spiritual life must be GIVEN just like a gift. Who gives the gift of spiritual life? Jesus Christ? How did he do that? He came to this earth as a man, died for His peoples' sins and gifted His people the gift of being accepted again of God, so we can see, hear, and talk to God again.

3. I am going to read you the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares. Matthew 13: 24 ... "The kingdom of heaven is like someone who planted good seed in his field. 25 While people were sleeping, an enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat and went away. 26 When the stalks sprouted and bore grain, then the weeds also appeared. 27 "The servants of the landowner came and said to him, 'Master, didn't you plant good seed in your field? Then how is it that it has weeds?' 28 "An enemy has done this,' he answered. "The servants said to him, 'Do you want us to go and gather them?' 29 "But the landowner said, 'No, because if you gather the weeds, you'll pull up the wheat along with them. 30 Let both grow side by side until the harvest. And at harvest time I'll say to the harvesters, "First gather the weeds and tie them together in bundles to be burned. But bring the wheat into my barn."

4. I need some volunteers and we are going to act out this parable. I will be the farmer. I need a servant (choose a volunteer). I need a person to pretend to be a stalk of wheat (choose a volunteer), and I need another child to be a weed (choose a volunteer). All my servants come to me, the master, and I will give you some seed. I want you to go to the garden (Area in the room) and plant the good seed that I the master have given you (Walk around the room, act like you are digging and planting etc...).



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5. Now let's say a few weeks have past and you are starting to get little plants in your garden. (Have the wheat crouch down on the floor) You notice that there are weeds in between the good wheat plants. (Have the weeds crouch down and crowd up next to the wheat) Well, what in the world happened? Did you plant those weeds? No, you planted good seed. Why would you want to plant weeds?

6. Servants come back to me and say, "Master we went to check out your good seed that you planted but there are weeds growing in between the good wheat. Was the seed you planted not good? - No, the seed was good, but an enemy of ours has come into our garden and planted bad seed and there are now weeds growing among the good wheat. What should we do?" "Weeds, I want you to get close to the wheat and hang on. I am going to try and pull you out of there." (Try to lift them but they both come off the floor together). Now what? If I pull up the weed then it could destroy the wheat! (Have them put down their signs.) Now that they don't have their signs, can you tell which one is a wheat and which one is a tare (weed). No, they look exactly the same. We can't really tell the difference and even if we could we might try to pull out a weed and damage the wheat.

7. That is exactly what happened in our parable. When the servants came and asked the Master what to do about the weeds, he said, "Leave them both alone and let them grow together until it is time for me to come and harvest the crop." (Have the wheat and the tare stand up like they are now full grown) "OK Servants, it is now time for you to harvest the wheat because it is fully matured. Go pull everything up – bind up the weeds and burn them (Have them take the weeds to the corner) and put the wheat in my barn." (Have them take the wheat to another corner)

8. Now everybody come back and sit down and let's talk about what this means. What a cool illustration this is. Is this just a story to entertain us? No, remember a Parable is a story to teach us a spiritual truth? This is what the bible says: "37 Jesus replied, 'The one who plants the good seed is the God in the flesh – Christ (Point to picture as you go through and explain what each thing stands for) 38 The field is the world. And the good seeds are the followers of the kingdom. But the weeds are the followers of the evil one. 39 The enemy who planted them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world. The harvesters and servants are the angels. 40 Just as people gather weeds and burn them in the fire, so it will be at the end of the world. 41 Our Lord will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that cause people to fall away and all people who sin. 42 He will throw them into a burning furnace. There will be weeping and grinding their teeth. 43 Then the righteous – his harvest that he planted will shine like the sun in their Father's kingdom. Those who have ears should hear.'" This parable is teaching us not about wheat and weeds, but it is making a comparison between God's people, who are like the good wheat and the weeds, which are the people who do not believe God and those who God did not plant in the field.

9. How many of you have worked in a garden? What do you do to a garden? You pick out good seed, you plant it, and you water it and feed it and take care of it. What do you do if a deer comes up and starts eating your corn? You build a fence around it to protect it. What do you do when your garden needs water? You water it. What do you do when the birds are



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flying over and picking all the fruit off of your vines? You cover it so the birds can't pick at it. All the time you are doing all these things, where are the weeds? They are still growing between the harvest. Do you water it and protect your garden because you want to protect the weeds? No! Those weeds are worthless. You are taking your loving care with the garden because of YOUR seed. That same is true with God's children.

God has a particular people in the world – the seed HE planted. Are we born good seed? No. Remember we are born like our father, Adam. We are born a weed by nature. We are worthless and cannot bear fruit. We are all born weeds, but mercifully He gives new spiritual life to a few undeserving weeds as a free gift and make us His flowering plants and puts us in His kingdom and brings fruit from us. Why? God is good and loving and merciful and He wanted to show His goodness and justice and mercy to us by choosing to send His Son to die for the sins of His people. He has a group of weeds that He has given new life to! He is going to have mercy on some weeds and they are no longer weeds but wheat He has planted! Christ died for their sins so they will have spiritual life again! The wheat (God's people He planted) grow together in this world with the weeds (Those that God did not plant). Can we tell the difference by looking at people who are His and who are not? No, we all look the same. Only God knows. Don't try to pull out people you don't think are God's. That is not your job. At the end of the world God will separate the wheat from the tares and until then they are allowed to grow together. OH what mercy and love our Lord God had for His people... so much so that He sent His only Son to die for a bunch of worthless weeds and give them new life as His wonderful wheat. Amen

SIMPLIFIED LESSON OPTIONS

- Do sections 3-6 using mission team members to act it out
- Tell the parable of the wheat and weeds in simple story form or read from a children's bible. Matthew 13.
- Ask several simple questions regarding the bible story



WHEAT & WEEDS

CRAFT

• CRAFT •

OBJECTIVE: PIPE CLEANER FLOWERS

Make pipe cleaner flowers.

MATERIALS PROVIDED BY EM

- Scissors, staplers, rulers, hole punches

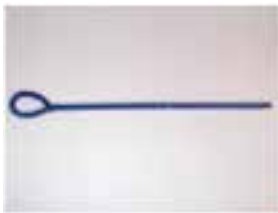
DIRECTIONS

- Loop one end of one of the colored pipe cleaners and twist to secure it.
- Make a second loop so that the ends of the two petals are touching.
- Loop the remaining end over the center so that it forms a third petal.
- Make a second set of petals in the same fashion.
- Combine the sets of petals by wrapping the ends together in the middle.
- Cut a yellow pipe cleaner in half and swirl it, leaving a small stem at the end.
- Poke the yellow stem through the center of the petals.
- Twist the end of a green pipe cleaner to the back of the flower.

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- Green pipe cleaners, several per child
- Colored pipe cleaners, several per child

EXAMPLE



SIMPLIFIED CRAFT OPTIONS

- *Pre-bend petals*
- *Pre-bend yellow center pieces*



WHEAT & WEEDS

GAME

• GAME •

OBJECTIVE: BALLOON OVER UNDER

Race relay style to get your teams balloon from one end of the line to the other.

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- Balloons in various sizes

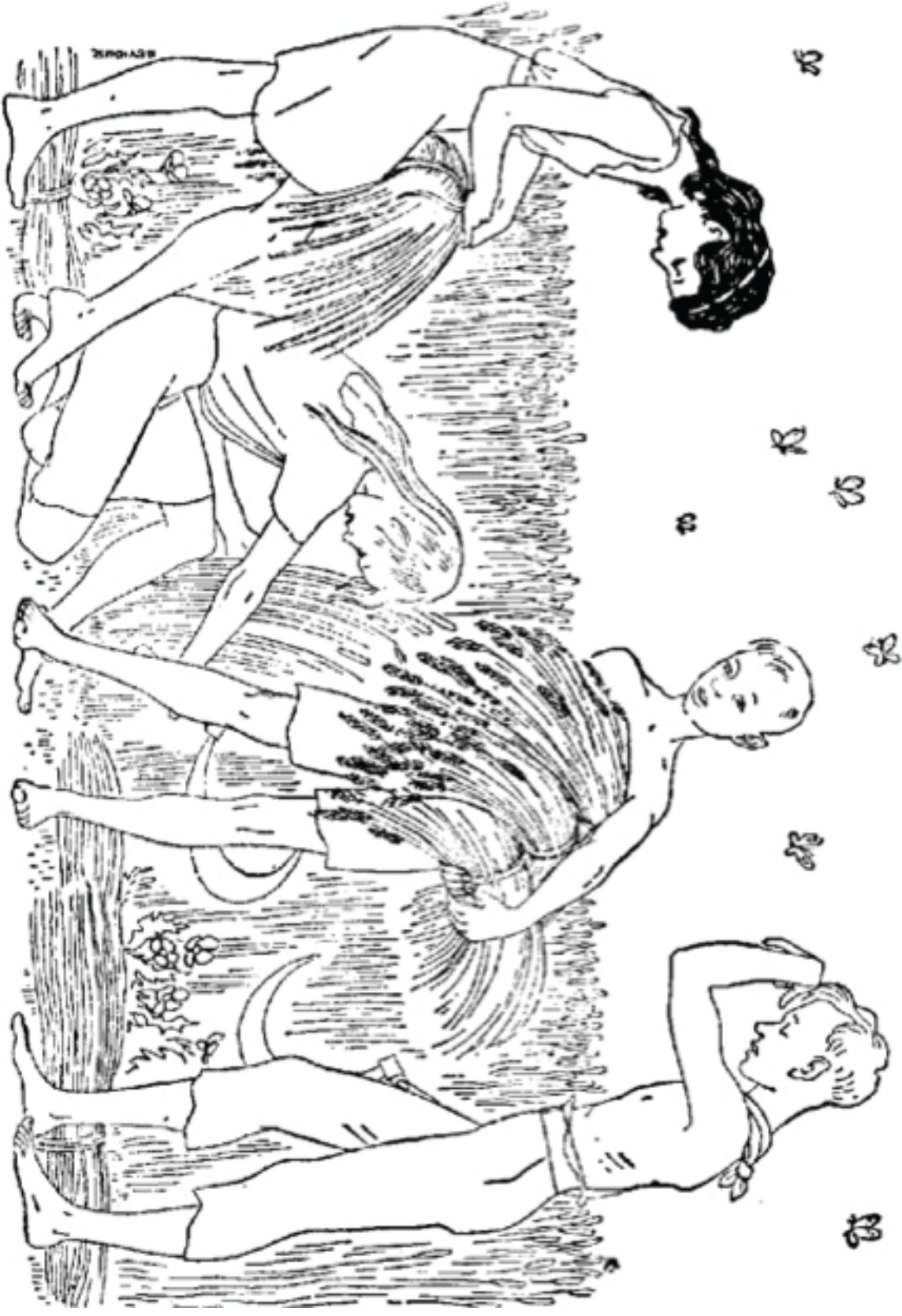
DIRECTIONS

- Divide kids up into several teams
- Teams line up
- Give the first player in each team a small balloon
- First player passes balloon over his head to the second player
- Second player passes balloon under his legs to the third player
- Third player passes balloon over his head to the fourth player and so on until balloon gets to the last person in line
- Last person races to the front of the line and passes the balloon over his head to the next player
- Game continues in this manner until each child has had a chance to be in the front. First team finished wins.
- Optional: Play several times with progressively larger balloons.

SIMPLIFIED GAME OPTIONS

- Kids stand side by side and pass the balloon down the line.
- Each team has several balloons to pass down the line.







The Parable of the Weeds

When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. Mathew 28:26 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



J	R	L	N	O	Y	S	V	Q	C	Z	P	I	W	F	G	H	X	T	D	U	B	E	A	M	K
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 12-24-2-24-22-3-23 _____
- 14-23-23-20-7 _____
- 16-5-5-20 _____
- 7-23-23-20 _____
- 15-13-23-3-20 _____
- 14-17-23-24-19 _____
- 17-24-2-8-23-7-19 _____
- 22-21-2-4 _____

WHEAT	WEEDS	FIELD	SEED
PARABLE	GOOD	HARVEST	BURN