



DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: Matthew 13:24-30; “The Kingdom of God is like a Farm That Appears to Be Mismanaged.”

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together.

When have you ever pre-judged someone or something, only to find out you were wrong? What happened? What did you do after discovering you were wrong?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

Did you disagree with something said, or what do you think should have been added or expanded on?

What do the parable of the soils from last week and the parable of the wheat and weeds this week have in common and how are they very different from one another?

In what way do we try to “defend” God from being charged with responsibility for the evil and suffering in the world? In what way do we “defend” God or Christianity from the charge that we are just as bad as everyone else? Why would I follow Jesus when Christians don’t believe what they say? In what way does this parable give a surprising answer to those charges?

Why would Jesus tell His disciples not to separate the wheat from the weeds? Does this mean we should never be discerning or use our judgement? If not, then what is Jesus trying to help us understand about ourselves and about God?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Matthew 13:24-30]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

What was Jesus talking about in this passage? (13:24)

To what did Jesus compare His topic? (13:24)

In the Parable of the Weeds, what happened while the farmer slept? (13:25)

What appeared in the farmer’s field besides the wheat he had planted? (13:26)

How did the owner’s servants react when they found weeds in the field? (13:27)

How did the owner reply to his servants? (13:28)

What did the servants volunteer to do for the owner of the field? (13:28)

On what grounds did the owner turn down the servant’s suggestion? (13:29)

What plan of action did the owner choose? (13:30)

Read the Parable Explained [Matthew 13:36-43]

Who came to Jesus for further discussion? Why? (13:36)
In the Parable of the Weeds, who did the sower represent? How? (13:37)
What did the field represent? In what way? (13:38)
What groups of people are illustrated by good seed and weeds? (13:38)
Whom does the enemy who sowed the bad seed represent? (13:39)
What future event is symbolized by the harvest? (13:39)
Whom do the harvesters represent? (13:39)
The burning of the weeds symbolizes what future event? (13:40-42)
What will happen to those who are thrown "into the fiery furnace"? (13:42)
What is the future for the righteous? (13:43)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

What opportunities do you have by living among all different kinds of people?

Why is it important to understand that God will judge, but His judgment is wise and His exercise of His judgment is patient?

In what ways does Satan/Devil plant weeds among the wheat? How ought this inform us about how we ought to live in the world?

What dangers lie in trying to label people as either "weeds" or "wheat" (non-Christians or Christians)? In what way are we terrible Judges? In what way is God the safest and best Judge?

Whose responsibility is it to label the weeds and deal with them? What is our responsibility on the farm of God?

.APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other?