

MEMORY VERSE: 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. Matthew 13:30 NIV

LESSON AIM: To learn how God's kingdom is formed and grows.

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY OUTLINE

BACKGROUND

1. What was one of Jesus' main methods of teaching? Matthew 13:3a; Mark 4:33-34
2. What is a parable? Use a Bible Dictionary. (A parable has been defined as: "A simple story illustrating a spiritual truth or moral lesson; an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.")
3. Why did Jesus teach in parables? Matthew 13:10-13
4. What is the kingdom of heaven (God)? [The Kingdom of heaven (God) is any place where God abides, His righteousness reigns supreme and His will is done.] Use a Bible Dictionary.

I. THE PARABLE OF THE WHEAT AND (WEEDS) TARES (MATTHEW 13:24-30)

5. In Matthew 13:24, to what does Jesus liken the kingdom of heaven?
6. What happened after the good seed was planted? In Matthew 13:25
7. When were the weeds (tares) recognized? Matthew 13:26
8. How did the owners' servants react to the weeds growing among the good seed? Matthew 13:27
9. How did the owner explain the weeds? What did the servants want to do? Matthew 13:28
10. What did the owner suggest to the servants how to eradicate the weeds? Why? Matthew 13:29-30a
11. What was the owner's plan for harvesting the wheat and eliminating the weeds? Matthew 13:30bc
12. What do the following in the parable of the wheat and weeds (tares) represent? In Matthew 13:37-39

vv. 24, 37	<u>Sower of the good seed</u>	<hr/>
vv. 24, 38a	<u>The field</u>	<hr/>
vv. 24, 38b	<u>The good seed</u>	<hr/>
vv. 25, 38c	<u>The weeds (tares)</u>	<hr/>
vv. 25, 39a	<u>The enemy</u>	<hr/>
vv. 30, 39b	<u>The harvest</u>	<hr/>
vv. 30, 39c	<u>The harvesters</u>	<hr/>
vv. 30, 40, 42	<u>The burning of the weeds</u>	<hr/> (Matt. 5:22; Rev. 21:8)
vv. 30, 43	<u>Bringing the wheat in the barn</u>	<hr/>

13. Who will be responsible for separating the wheat from the weeds? Matthew 13:41
14. How are the enemy (the devil) and the weeds (false teachers/prophets, evil ones) present today? Are they easy always to identify?

II. PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED (MATTHEW 13:31-32)

15. In Matthew 13:31, to what does Jesus liken the kingdom of heaven?
16. How does Jesus describe the mustard seed? Matthew 13:32a

III. PARABLE OF THE YEAST (LEAVEN) (MATTHEW 13:33)

17. In Matthew 13:33, to what does Jesus liken the kingdom of heaven?
18. How does the parable of the yeast (leaven) describe inner transformation? Matthew 13:33bc
19. How is the believer transformed inwardly?

Psalm 51:10 _____

Romans 12:2 _____

20. Often times yeast (leaven) symbolizes evil in the Bible. Do you think it refers to evil in this parable? Why or why not?

SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

21. How can we best distinguish the wheat from the weeds (tares)?

Hebrews 5:14b _____

1 John 4:1 _____

22. What good seed are Christians expected to sow? Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 4:32
23. What role does God play in the seed and the sower? What does God expect? 2 Corinthians 9:10-11
24. What examples of seemingly small and insignificant beginnings have you noticed in people or movements that grew to prominence?
25. What acts can we take to develop inwardly as in the parable of the yeast (leaven)?
26. What should be our chief focus when it comes to the kingdom of heaven (God)? Matthew 6:33