

# VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH –YOUTH WORK

## Sunday morning teaching plan

Date: 26th January 2025



<b>TITLE:</b>	The Parable of the Weeds <b>Matthew 13:24-30</b>
<b>THEME:</b>	Good and bad live together, grow together but will be harvested separately
<b>AIM:</b>	Understand how to live in a world full of good and bad and be part of God's good

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

There are many interpretations of this parable, sometimes called the wheat and the tares. Some suggest it is about life on earth being full of both good and bad people. The Good "sown by God" and the bad "sown" by Satan. We live together. At the end we will be separated. Another suggestion is that the Church has both believers and non believers. Trying to separate them out could cause damage to the true believers, so we leave it to God to decide who are weeds and who is wheat! I think it can provide a good lesson in how to live in the world today.

### WARM UP

Play game on PPT. Guess the weeds or flowers. ...easy with actual weeds and flowers but as we get to people it becomes impossible. Last slide shows that we can't often tell who is good or bad.

### MAIN TEACHING

**Activity 1.** Read Matthew 13:24-30. Also watch cheesy kids video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FltYGgvxAfU>

Using the matching sheet. Get YPs to match up the images with the words... this will help explain the story.

**Key teaching point:** God has placed his people in the world, but Satan tries to disrupt God's plans by placing evil/ bad people around. His plan is to destroy God's people. We live together, bad things may happen but God will judge everyone and sort it out at the end of the age.

**Activity 2: Stay engaged.** "Let both grow together." (Matthew 13:30) **Discussion**

**Is it better to isolate ourselves from everyone or to mix? What are the pros and cons of isolation and engagement?**

**Key teaching point:** Where has God rooted you down? Where have you been sown? Stay engaged! Don't be on an agenda of withdrawal from the world. There are no ideal spots in this world. Wherever Christ sows his people Satan sows his weeds. So bloom where you are planted.

Augustine said: **"Those who are weeds today may be wheat tomorrow."**

**Activity 3: Practice tolerance.** “Let both grow together.” (Matthew 13:30) discussion

What kind of people really annoy you? What values and beliefs do you really disagree with?

How do you deal with it?

**Key teaching point:** Tolerance is a wonderful Christian virtue that is needed where there are deep-seated disagreements. It means showing **patience and forbearance** towards people you find really difficult, and with whom you radically disagree. It does not mean passivity. It does not mean that you give up concern for another person’s spiritual condition. Jesus makes it clear that in this world, the wheat needs to grow alongside the weeds until the Son of Man comes.

Always remember, the mission of the church is **sowing seeds not pulling weeds**. We have a big enough challenge on our hands trying to deal with sin in our own hearts, our own families, and our own churches. It is not in our power or in our calling to root it out in the world. That is the work of Christ and he will do it when he comes.

**Activity 4: Anticipate the harvest.** Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. (Matthew 13:43)

There is always time to change from being a weed to being Wheat! As long as it is before harvest time!

Where are you now? Are you a weed or wheat? How do you know?

Here is an opportunity to simply present the gospel and give YPs a chance to think about it and respond.

**Key teaching point:** God will harvest the wheat. He will bring His people home, and the righteous will shine like the sun. **With whom will you be bundled on that day?**

**Make time to explain the Gospel or let YPs ask questions. Leave time for quiet prayer .**

**Can say a prayer of repentance . Let YPs know that they can speak to any of us if they said the prayer**

**TAKEAWAY**

**POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES/ RESOURCES**