

A world of wheat and weeds 19-25 July

Bible time Matthew 13.24-30,36-43

Jesus tells a story to help us live in an imperfect world.

Life today

Make a list of stories that you have seen in the news this week. Go through your list and put a tick next to all the good stories and a cross next to all the bad stories. Do you ever wonder why God doesn't just get rid of all the bad things in the world? That's what's happening in the passage today – good and bad existing together.

[Read the story together then explore it using these questions.](#)

Question time

- What things have you experienced where there has been both 'wheat' and 'weeds', both good and bad?
- How should Christians respond to living in an imperfect world? What are we challenged to do?
- What surprised or shocked you in the story Jesus told?

Activity time

- **Beauty in brokenness**
Go for a walk and collect some natural 'waste' products you find on the ground, such as twigs, bark, stones, leaves and grass. Use these to create a picture of something beautiful.
- **Imperfect world**
Try to find out about a local organisation which works to help make our imperfect world a better place. What could you do to get involved? Can you agree as a family one thing you will do to help?
- **Doodle journal**
Create a 'doodle journal' using an empty notebook. Each day, draw flowers to illustrate good things that have happened, where you have experienced God at work in the world. Draw weeds in among the flowers to illustrate bad things that have happened. Look back over your journal. Have you drawn mostly flowers or weeds? Think about how it feels to see both, side by side.

Jesus told the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is a bit like someone planting his field with good seed. He is very happy, but at night, when everyone is sleeping, his enemy creeps in and plants weeds among the wheat, then sneaks off again. So when the wheat starts to grow, the weeds grow too!



'The servants then go to their master and ask him, "Sir, didn't you just plant good seed in your field? So where have all the weeds come from?" When the master tells them that an enemy has planted them, they ask, "So, shall we pull up the weeds?"

'But the master replies, "No, because if you pull up the weeds, you might pull up the wheat as well. Let them both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will send in the reapers, then the weeds can be collected up, tied into bundles and burned. The wheat can be harvested and put in my barn."

Later, Jesus explained the parable to his disciples: 'Listen carefully. This is the story of my world. The master is the Son of Man, that's me. My friends are like the good seed, and my enemies are like the weeds that the devil has planted. The harvest is like the end of time, and my angels are the reapers who separate the wheat from the weeds in the field – the good and the evil in the world. All the evil is thrown away, like weeds on a bonfire, but all the good will shine like the sun in God's kingdom.'

reapers people who cut down the wheat at harvest time; **Son of Man** a title from the Old Testament Book of Daniel, used by Jesus to describe himself; **devil** a personification of evil, also called Satan or 'the evil one'.

Prayer time

God of wheat and weeds,
you send the rain to fall and the sun to shine
on the bad as well as the good.
Thank you that you are at work in the world.
Amen.