FAMILY WORSHIP GUIDE

The Parables: The Weeds

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

BIG IDEA

Jesus is the King, and His kingdom will prevail.

The enemy is at work in this world, but he does not own the field. Christ does. Jesus plants His people in the world, keeps them, and produces fruit in them through His Word and gospel. One day the harvest will come, evil will be judged, and Christ's people will be gathered safely into His kingdom.

MEMORY VERSE

"He who has ears, let him hear."
Matthew 13:43b (ESV)

HEAR THE WORD.	TRUST THE KING.	BEAR FRUIT.

Use one day at a time, or adapt the guide to your family's schedule. Read the passage aloud, discuss the questions, and close in prayer.

DAY 1 - THE FIELD BELONGS TO THE KING

READ: Matthew 13:24-30

Talk About It

1. Who planted the good seed?
2. What did the enemy do?
3. Did the enemy become the owner of the field by planting weeds in it?
4. How can remembering that the world still belongs to Christ help us when we see sin and suffering around us?

> **REMEMBER**
>
> The presence of evil does not mean Christ has lost control. **The field still belongs to the King.**

Pray

Praise Jesus for His authority over all creation. Ask Him to help your family trust His rule even when you do not understand what He is doing.

DAY 2 - GOOD SEED AND WEEDS

READ: Matthew 13:36-43

Jesus explains the parable for us.

Talk About It

- Who is the sower?
- What is the field?
- Who are the good seed?
- Who planted the weeds?
- What does the harvest represent?

Why is it important that we let **Jesus Himself** explain what His parable means?

> **REMEMBER**
>
> Being part of Christ's kingdom is more than looking religious or doing good things. Christ saves His people, changes them, and causes their lives to increasingly bear the character of their King.

Pray

Ask God to keep changing your hearts through His Word and to produce genuine fruit in your lives.

DAY 3 - KEPT IN THE WORLD

READ: John 17:14-18

Jesus did not pray that His people would immediately be removed from the world. He prayed that the Father would **keep them** while they lived in it.

Talk About It

1. Why does Jesus leave His people in the world?
2. What dangers do believers face here?
3. How does God keep and protect His people?
4. What opportunities has God given our family to show Christ to others?

> **FAMILY CHALLENGE**
>
> Think of **one person** your family can pray for who needs to hear the gospel.

Pray

Pray for that person by name. Ask God to give your family opportunities to speak His truth faithfully and lovingly.

DAY 4 - FRUIT, NOT JUST APPEARANCE

READ: Matthew 7:21-23 and Ephesians 2:1-10

Talk About It

1. Can someone look religious without truly knowing Christ?
2. According to Ephesians 2, what were we before God made us alive?
3. Who saves us?
4. Why does a Christian do good works?

GOSPEL TRUTH

Not: "I do good things so God will save me."

But: "Christ has saved me, so I want to love, worship, and obey Him."

Heart Check

Is God's Word changing the way I think, speak, respond, and live?

We do not obey to make ourselves children of the kingdom. We obey because Christ has saved His people and is making them more like Himself.

Pray

Confess specific sins together. Thank Jesus that salvation rests in His work rather than ours. Ask Him to produce the fruit of repentance in your family.

DAY 5 - THE HARVEST IS COMING

READ: Matthew 13:40-43

The harvest is certain. Christ knows those who belong to Him, and He will bring His saving work to completion.

Talk About It

1. What happens to the weeds at the harvest?
2. What happens to the righteous?
3. Why should the coming judgment make us take the gospel seriously?
4. How does the certainty of Christ's victory give believers hope?
5. Jesus ends by saying, "He who has ears, let him hear." What should we hear and obey from His Word this week?

REMEMBER

We do not need to fear that Christ might lose His kingdom.

Christ is supreme.
Christ keeps His people.
Christ will judge evil.
Christ will complete His work.

Pray

Thank Jesus that His victory is certain. Ask Him to help your family hear His Word, trust His promises, repent of sin, and faithfully follow Him until the harvest comes.

THIS WEEK AS A FAMILY

HEAR THE WORD.

Let Scripture - not the wisdom of the world - shape the way you think.

TRUST THE KING.

Remember that Christ remains sovereign even when circumstances are confusing.

REPENT OF SIN.

Ask God to reveal attitudes, actions, and desires that do not honor Him.

BEAR FRUIT.

Look for practical ways to love God, serve others, and proclaim the gospel.

Closing Prayer

PRAY TOGETHER

Father, thank You that Jesus Christ is King. Thank You that this world belongs to Him and that the work of the enemy cannot overthrow His kingdom. Help us to hear Your Word and live by it. Search our hearts, lead us to repentance, and produce fruit in our lives that shows the work of Your grace. Help us trust Christ when life is difficult and faithfully proclaim His gospel while You have planted us in this world. Keep us by Your grace until the harvest comes, when Christ's victory will be fully revealed. In Jesus' name, amen.