

Dining Room Prayer Time

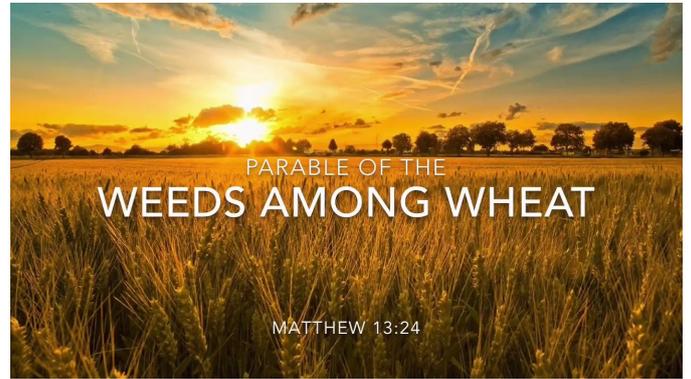
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

“WEEDS and WHEAT”

Child/teen to lead by following purple instructions and reading the blue instructions.

Setup Sacred space

Before the prayer. Spend 20 minutes collecting 3 or 4 items to set up the sacred space. Such as a candle, cross, image and flower or some greenery. Set this up on the dining table in your house. Choose a time that everyone can come together. You will also need colouring-in-pencils for the prayer. Print this worksheet for each person in your house. Ask an adult to light the candle at the start.



1. Start

Let us put ourselves in God's presence by focusing on our breathing.

Breath in..... Breath out..... *(repeat this 4 times)*

As we light the candle we make the sign of the cross.

ALL – “In the name of the father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen”

2. Gospel

Matthew Chapter 13 verse 24 to 30

Child/teen to read -

Jesus proposed another parable to the crowds, saying:

"The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field.

While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off.

When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well.

The slaves of the householder came to him and said,

'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field?

Where have the weeds come from?'

He answered, 'An enemy has done this.'

His slaves said to him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

He replied, 'No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them.

Let them grow together until harvest;

then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters,

"First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning;

but gather the wheat into my barn.'""

3. Gospel Reflection

Child/teen to read -

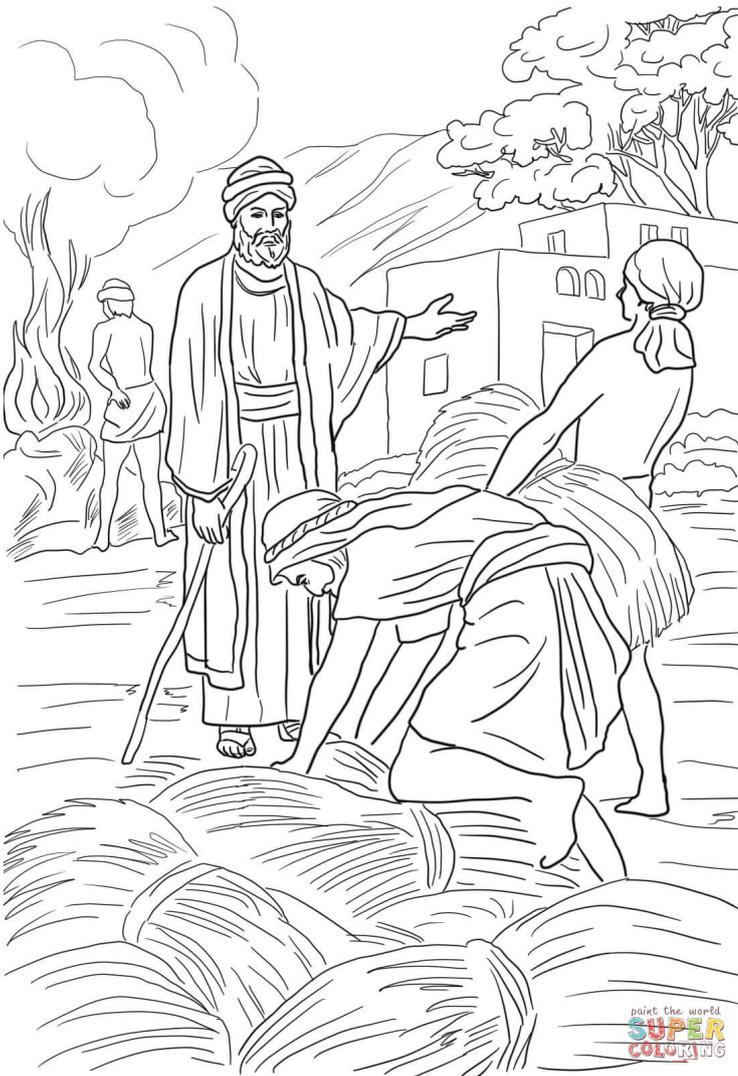
Here Jesus uses another story or parable. Do you remember what a parable is? Yes. It is a short story with a meaning or message. In real life wheat and weeds are very different. Wheat can be harvested to make bread. Whilst weeds can often choke other plants from growing. Taking nutrients like water or sun shine. Weeds are chaotic and they may try to take control of the garden. Jesus uses the weeds and wheat as symbols. Wheat represents or symbolises goodness. Weeds represents or symbolise badness. What is interesting is that Jesus does not say get rid of the badness or pull up the weeds. We often run away from badness when we identify it and see that it is there. Rather, Jesus suggests keep the badness. Why you may ask? Badness has something to teach us. Badness gives us an opportunity to know something a little deeper, such as why it is there. Badness can often remerge when we least expect. Or in the garden, badness may protect the good plants from worse things, like mice who wish to eat the wheat. Badness or weeds have a role to play in our lives and in the garden. Though we may not realise it just yet.

4. Second Reading

Child/teen to read the Gospel a second time

5. Colour

Colour in the following picture



6. Questions

Spend a few minutes completing the following questions, write and the discuss.

1. What does Jesus suggest about the weeds and the wheat?
2. What do the weeds and the wheat represent or symbolise?
3. Why keep the weeds?
4. Why keep the badness?
5. (parents) – Why is it hard to integrate the negative in life?

7. Prayers of the Faithful

We ask that God receives the following prayers:

A. We pray that we may not run away from what is hard or difficult. Lord hear us.

ALL : Lord hear our prayer.

B. We pray we do not judge others who may do bad, rather, give us an opportunity to learn and be patient. Lord hear us.

ALL : Lord hear our prayer.

C. Does anyone else have a prayer they would like to share? *PAUSE*.....

ALL : Lord hear our prayer.

8. Final Prayer

Dear God we ask that you receive all our prayers as we pray the Our Father together.

ALL - Our Father who art in Heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins. As we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

As we blow the candle out we ask that God remains with us.

We make the sign of the cross.

ALL – “In the name of the father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen”