



**Growth Group Questions**  
**October 20, 2024**  
**“Wheat, Weeds and the World”**

**Context:**

Matthew 13:24-30, also known as the parable of the weeds or the parable of the wheat and the tares, is part of a cluster of parables in the Bible that discuss God's kingdom and the persistence of evil in the world.

The parable is part of a transition in Jesus' ministry, when he began to speak to his disciples about the kingdom of God instead of to the multitudes.

Matthew shows us the responses to the teachings of Jesus in chapters 11 and 12. They are threefold. 1. He is the Messiah. 2. Some who question if He is the Messiah. 3. He is NOT the Messiah. Then Matthew compiles several parables of Jesus dealing with this. And many of them involve farming.

This parable tells the story of a farmer who sows good seeds in a field, but an enemy sows weeds among the wheat. The farmer waits until harvest time to separate the wheat from the weeds, and the weeds are burned.

The purpose of the Gospel of Matthew shows that Jesus is the continuation of the story from the Old Testament and demonstrates that the credentials of Jesus are given through the line of David and that He is the new Moses. Jesus then fulfills the prophecy found in Isaiah that He will be Immanuel, or God With Us. Matthew shows us that no matter the response, the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus will be spread.



## Scripture:

### **Matthew 13:24-30**

<sup>24</sup> Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup> But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. <sup>26</sup> When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. <sup>27</sup> “The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’ <sup>28</sup> “‘An enemy did this,’ he replied. “The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’ <sup>29</sup> “‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. <sup>30</sup> 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.’”

## Questions:

1. In this week’s sermon, Abe Musto challenged us to identify the weeds that have been sown in our lives. What kind of weeds do you think he was talking about?
2. Abe said that even the seeds we think are good may not be what God wants us to plant in our lives. What does that mean? Can you identify examples?
3. One of the most damaging characteristics of weeds is that they can hinder growth of the good seeds that have been planted in the garden. How do weeds in our lives hinder our spiritual growth?
4. One of the difficulties in weeding a garden is that it is sometimes hard to distinguish the weeds from the desirable plants. How can we know whether we are identifying a weed or a fruit in our lives?
5. What kind of weeding skills should we be developing to remove the spiritual weeds from our lives?
6. Abe said that one way of identifying and removing weeds from our lives is through community. How does being in a spiritual community help with the weeding process?

