

Activity: *Wheat and Weeds*



FAMILY TIME
TRAINING

Teaching Goal: Only God knows who will be in heaven.

Scriptures: Matthew 13:24-30 and 36-43 Parable of the Wheat & Weeds. 1 Samuel 16:7 The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

Materials: Bible, Popcorn and oil, Popcorn popper or Pan, lid and stove, Marker

Lesson and discussion

Words written in **bold** are when the leader is speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

- A. DISCUSSION: Invite a volunteer to read Matthew 13:24-30 or put the story of the Wheat & Weeds into your own words. **Who are the characters in this story?** *Listen. An owner. His enemy. Servants. Harvesters.* **What happens in the story?** *Listen. Owner plants good wheat. Enemy plants weeds. Servants ask if they should pull up the weeds. Owner says “no” so that they don’t damage the wheat while pulling up the weeds. At harvest time the harvesters will separate the weeds, burn them, and then bring the wheat into the barn.*
- **A crowd started to follow Jesus and his disciples. They were hoping to see miracles and hear Jesus teach. When teaching, Jesus often used stories. The Wheat & Weeds story is one that he told the crowd and his disciples. Jesus’ stories have a hidden, important message. What do you think the Wheat & Weed story means?** *Listen.*

FAMILY FUN TIME ACTIVITY

Continued

- **B. Jesus tells us what this story means.** Invite a volunteer to read Matthew 13:36-43 or put the explanation into your own words. **Who do the characters represent?** *Listen.* Owner is Jesus. His enemy is Satan. The harvesters are the angels. The good seed represents believers in Christ. The weeds are the followers of Satan. The field is the world and the harvest represents the end of the world. **In the story the followers of Satan are thrown into the fire at the end of the world. The followers of Jesus will shine like the sun and be with God, the Father, in his heavenly kingdom.**
- **The story warns Christians not to separate those who will be rewarded with heaven from those who will receive punishment—that is the job of angels. When people try to separate those who will be rewarded from those who will be punished, they can end up damaging good followers of Jesus. How could we hurt other Christians by trying to make this decision ourselves?** *Listen.* We could be wrong. Maybe someone we would choose today to be in the punished group will become a follower of Jesus in the future. People may be turned away by a person trying to make judgments only God can make.
- Invite a volunteer to read 1 Samuel 16:7. **We can only see the outside of people while God sees the inside too. Instead of looking at people and spending time trying to decide if they are good enough for one group or bad enough for another group, it is more useful to follow Jesus' teaching to love everyone, even our enemies. Treat everyone with respect. Who knows, maybe the people we least expect to be in heaven will end up following Jesus.**
- **C. ACTIVITY:** Take approximately 50 kernels of popcorn and prepare to pop them. Before putting the kernels in the popper say: **Whenever we make popcorn, there are always a few kernels that do not pop. You could say these are bad kernels. To help us remember the story of the Wheat & Weeds we are going to try something different this time. I want each person to pick two kernels they think are bad—kernels that won't pop. Color them with the marker. Now pick two kernels that you think are good and keep them out of the pan. This picking good and bad kernels represents what Jesus warned us not to do. Jesus warns us not to try and choose who will or will not go to heaven. Now let's pop the popcorn and see which ones pop and which ones do not.**
- Be sure to leave a few, not too many, kernels un-popped. **How did we do at choosing? Did all or any of our bad kernels remain un-popped?** *Listen to answers.* **The kernels we picked to be "good" didn't even go into the pan. Can we be sure they would have popped?** *Listen to answers.*
- **Remember, God has assigned angels to do the job of separating those who will and will not go to heaven. Our job is to pray and ask God to fill us with love for everyone—friends and even people we may not like.**

II. Close in Prayer

III. Pass It On: Make an extra copy of this lesson and pass it on to another family