

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Study to show "The Way of True life,"

Bible Study Outline

TOPIC: The Wheat and the Weeds

TEXT: *Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43*

Instructions: *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction: We all wish God would remove evil from the world. But put yourself in God's place for a moment: if by a simple word of power, you could snatch evil doers away from earth, what complications might arise from your decision? As one person has said, "If God were to destroy all evil at 12:00 midnight, who would be left at 1:00 am?" In this parable Jesus tells us why God allows good and evil to coexist in the world.

1. Have you ever felt frustrated by the fact that God has not yet removed all evil from the world, and bad things continue to happen to good people? Explain your thoughts.
2. Describe the crisis that occurred at the beginning of the parable (Vs. 24-26)?
3. The owner's servants offer to pull up the weeds (v. 28). What alternative does the owner propose, and why do you think he made such proposal (Vs. 29-30)?
4. According to Jesus, what do the key elements of the parable stand for (Vs. 37-39)?
5. What does the enemy's activity in this parable tell us about devil's plan and influence in the world?
6. In what sense are non-Christians "enemy agents"? How should this affect our attitude toward them?
7. How does Jesus interpret the weeds being pulled up and burned in the fire (Vs. 40-43)? Who is given this responsibility (Vs. 41-42)?
8. Like the owner's servants, how have Christians sometimes offered to pull up the weeds prematurely? Give an illustration. What have been some of the consequences of this misguided concern?
9. Christians have often misinterpreted the field as the church rather than the world. How would interpreting the field as the church alter the meaning of the parable?
10. How does this parable help you understand God's patience and plan for dealing with evil?
11. What hope does the parable offer us as Christians?