



Normal Campus Sermon Study - 7.26.2026

Leader's Corner

The Parable of the
Wheat and the Weeds

Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43

Main Idea: Until Jesus makes all things new, good and evil will continue to grow side by side. Rather than trying to judge, separate, or retaliate, followers of Jesus are called to become people who faithfully love others, live with hope, and trust God to bring perfect justice in His perfect timing.

Main Passage: Matthew 13:24–30; 36–43

Main Practice: Grow into who God created you to be by bringing the life of Jesus wherever He has planted you.

Prayer and Praise

Opening Prayer:

Father,

Thank You for reminding us that You are the Lord of the harvest. When life feels confusing, unfair, or filled with weeds, help us resist fear, bitterness, and the temptation to take matters into our own hands.

Instead, grow in us the character of Jesus. Fill us with love for people, hope in Your promises, and gratitude that You are making all things new. Teach us to trust Your timing, reflect Your heart, and faithfully bring life wherever You've planted us.

May Your Spirit shape us into people who point others toward Your Kingdom.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Worship Suggestions:

* Goodness of God – Bethel Music

* Firm Foundation (He Won't) – Cody Carnes

* King of My Heart – John Mark & Sarah McMillan

Group Discussion

1. Read Matthew 13:24–30 together. What details immediately stand out about the farmer, the enemy, the wheat, the weeds, and the workers?
2. Why do you think Jesus says the wheat and weeds are allowed to grow together until the harvest? What surprises you about the farmer's response?
3. Jesus later explains the parable (vv. 36–43). Who does each character represent, and what does this teach us about the world we currently live in? * Farmer // Good seed // Weeds // Enemy // Harvest // Harvesters
4. Why is it often difficult for us to live in a world where both good and evil exist together? Share an example (without naming individuals if inappropriate).
5. Read Romans 5:3–5 and Ephesians 2:1–5. How do these passages help us understand both the brokenness of our world and the hope available through Jesus?
6. Read Romans 12:9–21. Which instructions from Paul feel the most challenging when dealing with difficult people or difficult situations? Why?
7. The workers wanted to remove the weeds immediately. When are we tempted to “pull weeds” ourselves instead of trusting God?
8. The sermon challenged us not simply to notice the weeds, but to become wheat. What characteristics of “good seed” do you want people to experience through your life this week?
9. Read Revelation 21:1–7. How does God's promise to one day remove evil, suffering, and death give you hope for today?
10. Finish this sentence: “This week, I want to make my home, workplace, neighborhood, school, or relationships look a little more like the Kingdom of Jesus by...” Share one specific action you'll take.

Practice

As a Group:

Choose one intentional way your group can bring life into someone else's world this week. Here are some ideas:

- * Pray for someone carrying a heavy burden.
- * Encourage someone who feels overlooked.
- * Serve a neighbor or coworker together.
- * Write notes of encouragement.
- * Reach out to someone who has drifted away from church or community.

Finish your time praying for one another to become people who faithfully bring the life of Jesus wherever He has planted them.

Personal Practice:

Each morning this week, begin your day with this simple prayer: "Jesus, help me become who You created me to be. Let me bring Your life wherever You've planted me today." Then each evening reflect on these questions:

- * Where did I notice weeds today?
- * How did I respond?
- * Where did I see God at work?
- * How did I bring love, hope, or peace into someone's life?
- * Where do I need God's grace to keep growing?

Further Study

Supporting Scriptures:

Living in a Broken World

- * Genesis 3:1–19
- * Romans 8:18–25
- * John 16:33

God's Justice & Future Hope

- * Revelation 14:14–16
- * Revelation 21:1–7
- * 2 Peter 3:7–15
- * Psalm 73

Responding Like Jesus

- * Romans 12:9–21
- * Matthew 5:38–48
- * Galatians 5:22–26
- * James 3:13–18

Theological Reflection:

"The church exists not to escape the world but to embody the reign of God within it." — N.T. Wright

"The people of God are called not simply to survive in Babylon, but to seek its peace while waiting for God's Kingdom." — Tim Mackie

"Christian hope is not wishful thinking about tomorrow; it is confidence that changes how we live today." — Tim Keller

Leader's Closing Thought:

This parable reminds us that our calling is not to spend our lives obsessing over the weeds around us. Jesus has entrusted that work to the Father. Instead, our invitation is to faithfully become the people He created us to be—people who embody His love, hope, and truth in every place He plants us.

As your group closes, encourage everyone to carry this question into the week:

Who are you becoming where God has planted you?

Because one loving, life-giving follower of Jesus can transform a home, a workplace, a classroom, a team, or a neighborhood by faithfully growing into who God created them to be.