

## Sixteenth Sunday of the Year

### The wheat and the weeds

#### INTRODUCTION

Today Jesus tells us another parable and warns us about what will happen at the end of time to those people who do not listen to him.

#### SIGN OF THE CROSS

#### LIGHT THE CANDLES

Sing the Candle Song together as the candles are being lit.

#### SORRY

Help the children to reflect over the events of the past week. Did they hurt or upset anyone by their thoughts or actions? Were they selfish or unkind? Did they do something which they should not have done? Listen to the words of this reading, and ask God for his forgiveness:

God is full of kindness and love, and wants to show us the path we must follow. He leads us with patience and understanding, and forgives us when we stray and lose our way. When we look to him for help, he rescues us from harm and helps us to try again, for he is full of forgiveness.  
(Psalm 25:10-16)

#### GLORIA

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 1.

#### GOSPEL (MATTHEW 13:24-43)

Jesus told the people another parable:

"One day a farmer sowed his field with wheat, but that night as he slept, his enemy crept into the field and scattered weed seeds amongst the wheat.

"Days passed and as the wheat sprouted and grew, so did the weeds, and the farmer realized what his enemy had done. One of the farm workers asked him, 'Master, do you want us to pull up the weeds?' But the farmer answered, 'No, let them grow together until harvest time, because if you pull up the weeds now, you might pull up the wheat, too! When the harvest comes, the harvesters can separate the wheat from the weeds.

Then I can store the wheat in my barn and burn the weeds."

When the disciples asked Jesus to explain the story he said: "I am the man who sowed the wheat, and the devil is my enemy who scattered the weeds. The wheat seeds are the people who hear my word and follow me, and the weeds are the wicked people who will not listen to me. The end of the world will be like harvest time, when good and bad people will be separated by angels sent by God. The good people will share God's glory and happiness in heaven, but the wicked people will be punished and will never see God."

#### DISCUSSION

Why does no one like weeds? Weeds stop the other plants from growing tall and strong. They choke them with their roots and block out the sunlight with their leaves.

Why did the farmer not want his workers to pull out the weeds? He did not want to risk losing any of the good seed. Like the wheat and weeds, God allows good and bad people to live side by side. Goodness and love are strong, and God wants to allow wicked people a chance to change their ways before the end of time.

What did Jesus promise for good and bad people at the end of the world? By the life we lead on earth, we can choose to be like the wheat, stored safely in the farmer's barn, and live with God forever in heaven; or we can be like the weeds, burned at harvest time, and never be with God.

#### ACTIVITY

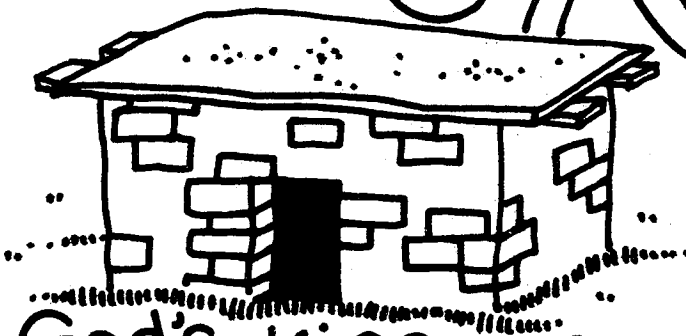
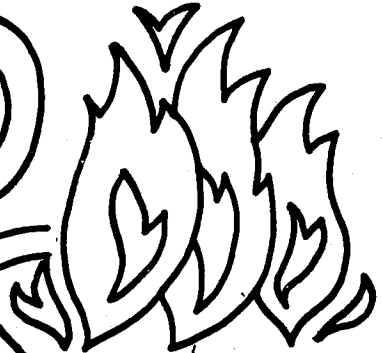
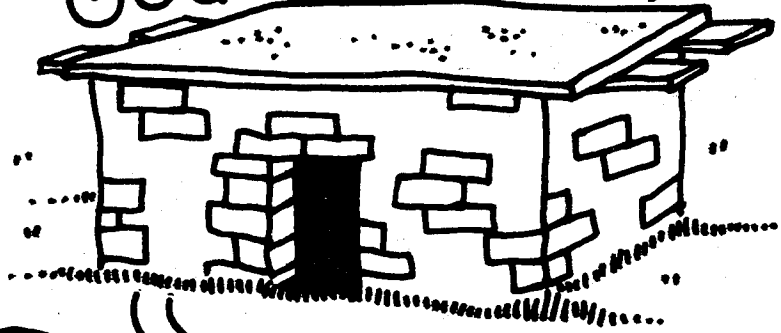
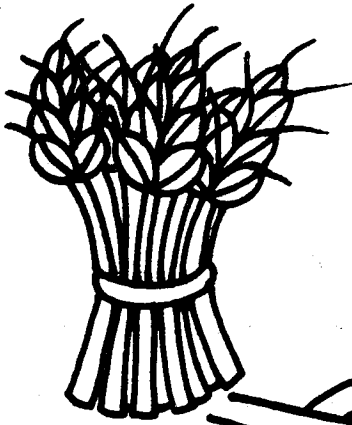
Color the bundles of wheat and weeds. Untangle the maze to show what happens to them. Label the barns "God's Kingdom."

#### CREED

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, show us the way to eternal life.  
Walk beside us on our journey,  
until your angels lead us  
to share your everlasting happiness  
at the end of time.

God's kingdom



God's kingdom