

Connecting Church and Home

Quarter 1, Week 9 :: **The King Tells of His Kingdom**

Treasure Story: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-52

There is nothing better than a good story. Jesus knew how to tell incredible stories that spoke to those He taught. In today's Treasure Story, Jesus uses parables to reveal the truth of His kingdom. In these stories, we learn that good and evil coexist on earth, but one day Christ will return and punish His enemies and reward His followers with entrance into His Kingdom.

Connect

"Suffering, failure, loneliness, sorrow, discouragement, and death will be part of your journey, but the Kingdom of God will conquer all these horrors. No evil can resist grace forever." -

- Brennan Manning

Jesus' use of parables was His way of connecting with the people He taught. He connected with them by what they knew. They knew trades, such as harvesting and fishing, but they could also understand finding great treasure. Jesus wanted the people to understand that for a time both good and evil would be present, but there would be a day when the two would be separated, just as the wheat and weeds would be separated at harvest. Take time this week to teach your children about the kingdom of God with these activities:

- **Pulling Weeds:** This activity will get the whole family involved in seeing growth. Many times we neglect our gardens or our flowerbeds. So for this activity, go outside and begin pulling the weeds that are suffocating your plants. You will also want to take care of your plants with water or food. In the end, you will see plants or vegetables that have grown without anything limiting it. Explain to your children that one day Jesus will separate those who love Him from those who don't, just like you and your family separated the weeds from the flowers.
- **Storytelling with a Purpose:** Use the opportunity to spread the Gospel through storytelling. As a family, plan a backyard or neighborhood Bible club that includes games, refreshments, and Bible stories. Invite your neighbors' kids and share with them the story of Christ. This is a creative way to reach your neighborhood for Christ.

My Mission As Parent

- Be clear with your children about the dangers and temptations of sin. Help them see that a day is coming when Jesus will gather those who have chosen Him over sin and invite them into His kingdom. He will also punish His enemies with a fiery judgment.
- Jesus used storytelling to teach His disciples. We can teach our children in a similar way. Find ways to connect with your children when teaching them about Christ and the kingdom. Let your teaching be relevant in their lives.

Prayer Points

- Thank God for teaching us His truths with such clarity.
- Praise God that evil will not exist in this world forever.
- Praise Jesus for His death, burial, and resurrection. Praise Him for His future return also.