

Sermon Discussion Questions for Small Groups

Week of July 29th

Sermon Titled: "The Wheat and Tares"

Open in Prayer. Read Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

As you begin, ask the group: How would you summarize the main points of the sermon? What stood out to you about the sermon? What questions did you have? What challenged you?

Note for the discussion and application questions: choose a couple of the questions below to discuss and go deeper with the sermon together.

Application & Discussion Questions

1. Matthew uses the term "Kingdom of God" more than any other gospel. What is the Kingdom? How do we understand that today?
2. In this parable, what do the wheat and the tares represent (13:37)?
3. The servant in the parable notices only the evil, not the good (13:27), however, this parable is about both: the wheat and the tares. In the world, good and evil inseparably dwell together. How do we make sense of this? Where have you experienced or observed this?
4. Faith is not believing that we can get what we want to get; faith is believing what life actually is and facing it courageously. Discuss this definition of faith together. How can we cultivate this kind of faith in God?
5. Are there areas of your life that the pains and troubles of the world taken your focus off the cross and instead focused on your own suffering, disappointments, discomforts, or missed expectations? Said another way, what do you tend to grumble or complain about?
6. How does suffering or the troubles of the world shape our faith? How do they build intimacy and trust with God and encourage us toward an external perspective?
7. Based on this parable and the sermon, how would you counsel someone who is struggling with an unfulfilled desire, uncertain medical diagnosis, or the consequences of unjust treatment? How would you encourage hope, endurance and an eternal mindset?

Prayer Focus: Read Psalm 116:1-14. Confess together areas of trouble in your life and pray for His help to joyfully remember your salvation, His promises and past faithfulness to you.