

## Children's Worship Lesson – July 19, 2020

**Focus Scripture: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

**Purpose: To explore how being patient with ourselves and others is part of growing in God's way.**

### **An Awesome Adventure: "SEEKERS AFTER JESUS"**

**Clue #1: Where We Find God**

**Clue #2: How Does God Work in Our World**

**Clue #3: Joining God in Creating Shalom**

**Clue #4: Give and You Will Receive**

**Clue #5: Take My Yoke Upon You**

**Clue #6: God's Spirit Grows in Me**

**Clue #7: Weeds and Wheat Together**



### **Preparation**

Worship Table – green cloth

Pictures for story/activity at the end of the lesson

Lemon juice, bowl, white paper, Q-tip, toaster

Jigsaw pieces glued on poster board or cereal box

***Lighting the Christ Candle: "We light this candle to remind us that God is always with us."***

### **Prayer**

Dear God,

We are searchers, looking for clues about you and your love.

Guide us in the adventure of following you and sharing your love.

Amen.

### **Song: (Tune: Do You Want to Build a Snowman from Frozen)**

The farmer was so happy, good seeds he planted in the soil,  
And then the plants they grew, and ears of wheat were formed with weeds that showed up  
too.

The workers praised the farmer for the good seed, but who planted weeds as well.

The farmer said an enemy, do you want us to get rid of them,  
no, at harvest time.

## Introducing the Theme: Invisible Ink Messages



Explain that you will show your detective(s) how to make an invisible ink message that only those who know the secret will know how to read it. But this message takes some patience, both to make it and to decode it. Cut lemon in half and squeeze out juice into a small dish, or pour lemon juice from the bottle. Dip a Q-tip into the juice and gently print the word PATIENCE or JESUS on plain, white paper. When the ink/juice dries, the writing will disappear. (Do not use too much or the word will show up when the paper dries.) While you are patiently waiting for the paper to dry and learn how to decode it, proceed with the lesson.

## Exploring the Theme – Bible Story

Look at the seed you planted last week and if it has started to grow, ask the child(ren) if they know what type of plant it is? It takes patience to wait and see! That is what we are learning about today - patience.

Ask child(ren) things they know of that take patience to learn or to do. Is it easy for them to be patient? Patience is something we all have to learn - even moms and dads.

## Treasure Hunt



Our story today is hidden in pieces around this room and I need you to find it so we can read it together. Send them on a treasure hunt to find 7 puzzle pieces hidden in the room. When they find the 7 pieces, they must patiently work together to form the puzzle so we can read the story. Have your child or you read the story. (To get the correct order, follow the letters of the word PARABLE.) (While they are putting the puzzle pieces together turn on the toaster oven.) After reading the 'L' piece, ask the child(ren) to imitate an action of wheat and weeds. Which one do they think might be weeds? Read the last piece and have the weeds identify themselves by their actions (imitating a choking action with their hands). Was it a good thing that the farmer waited? Would he have pulled up the wrong things?

I wonder what Jesus was trying to teach us with this parable, about living in God's way? (We have to be patient like God is with us, and give people's ideas, projects etc., a chance to grow before we make judgements.) Affirm the children for being great detectives and figuring out what the parable is teaching us.

## Decoding Our Invisible Ink Secret Messages

Look at the paper where you wrote your message. What can you see? I wonder how we can decode it - make it show up? Place paper in toaster oven preheated to 150°C/300°F, or you can use a candle if you don't have a toaster oven. It will take about 5 to 6 minutes and the message will appear in brown writing, but you need patience - it takes a little time to "develop." Have the children watch from a safe distance as the letters start to appear.

## **Activity or Craft – Get Well Card**



**Materials:** crayons or pencil crayons, construction paper

Getting well takes patience, and receiving a card helps. Give the child(ren) a piece of construction paper folded in half. On the front of the card have them decorate it. Inside the card have them write “We wish you patience and love as you get well.” Sign your name. Give your card to someone you

know who is sick.

## **Closing Prayer**

Thank you God for lips to praise you,  
Hands to serve you and hearts to love you!  
Amen.

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The Kingdom of heaven is like this... a man sowed good seed in his field.



One night, when everyone was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away.



When the plants grew and the ears of wheat began to form, then the weeds showed up.



The man's servants came to him and said, "Sir, it was good seed you sowed in your field; where did the weeds come from?"



"It was an enemy who did this," he answered.

"Do you want us to pull up the weeds?" they asked him.



"No," he answered, "because as you gather the weeds, you might pull up some of the wheat along with them."



"Let the wheat and the weeds both grow together until harvest, then I will tell the harvest workers to pull up the weeds first, tie them in bundles and burn them, and then to gather in the wheat and put it in my barn."

