

## Connect Group Discussion Guide – 6/30/2024

### Kingdom Stories Week 5 – Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

Audio Only: On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

#### Highlights

- Parables are an invitation to meditate on the words of Jesus
  - Help us contemplate, “What could the Kingdom of God actually look like?”
  - As I discover more about Jesus, I learn more about myself.
  - Stay curious. What does the Kingdom look like, and where do I fit in to it?
- Parables gently challenge us.
  - They move us to either follow Jesus or reject Him.
- Parables illustrate hope.
  - They use simple imagery to uncover spiritual mysteries
  - Today’s parable is about judgement, but Jesus wraps that judgement in hope.
- Looking at today’s parable through the lens of the question, “What could the Kingdom of God actually look like?”
- **Matthew 13:24** What Jesus cultivates and grows is always **good**.
  - But we live in a world where the enemy plants something very different.
- **Matthew 13:26-267** The enemy has planted a counterfeit.
  - The weeds are called false wheat.
  - What the enemy plants is not good, but looks like it is.
  - Think in the garden...the enemy told Eve you can be like God. She already was: created in His image.
    - Counterfeit thinking: it looks like it’s good, but it wasn’t.
- **Matthew 13:30** Let both grow together is a picture of our world!
  - God’s judgement is rooted in a deep desire to restore us in our world.
    - He has a plan to restore our world through judgement.
      - Yes judgement, but restoration – **hope!**
    - The harvest is coming because the farmer has to find a way to restore us: the judgement is not just to blindly punish up.
- **Matthew 13:36** Kingdom people are following and being changed by Jesus: Everyday Disciples
  - What happened to the servants from the parable in Jesus’s explanation?
    - Are they the disciples, us, who are supposed to be continuing Jesus’s mission?
    - Don’t pull the weeds because it’s not their (our) place to.
    - It’s sometimes difficult to tell the difference between the weeds and the plants.
      - Our job is not to judge, our job is to live as wheat, to be changed by Jesus so I look like wheat.
      - We are participants in seeing the Kingdom of God come closer.
      - It’s our job to live like heaven.
- **Matthew 13:40-43** Someday evil and sin will come to an end!!
  - Judgement is coming. **Will you be a participant in restoration or not?**

**There is a just judge who loves His world and is totally committed to it.** Judgement will come.

**We get to spend our lives figuring out what it means to live like Jesus (heaven) even when we are surrounded by Hell. This is what it means to be wheat among the weeds.**

**What does it look like to live like Jesus at THIS moment?**

**How could choosing to live like Jesus actually change the world around us?**