

## A Place to Belong: Application in Community

**Note:** You don't need to be a believer in Jesus to be welcomed here. You don't need to be a Christian to participate in a small group. All are welcome from all walks of life. Our goal is that we might introduce you to the living GOD who desires to fill you with the Spirit of GOD and bring you back to a relationship with your Heavenly Father by meeting Jesus.

If you are not in a small group and are interested in joining one, please see Pastor Ryan or Tia Hanson, our Director of Connections:

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### Questions:

1. Many counterfeits – forgeries of God's truest things – exist in our world. For example, lust is a counterfeit of love; and Facebook "friends" are a counterfeit to true friendship. What are other examples of counterfeits in our culture?
2. Which counterfeits have you personally struggled with or fallen prey to?
3. What happens to these counterfeits when you apply one or more of the "litmus tests" below?

### Litmus Tests:

- 1—Is it bringing me closer to God... or pushing me farther away?
- 2—Is it bringing me closer to other Christians... or farther away?
- 3—Is it God's wisdom? Or human "wisdom"? Is it consistent with Scripture?
- 4—Is it about religion... or a relationship with Jesus?

## The Parables of Jesus

### God Creates, Satan Counterfeits

#### Today's Parable: The Parable of the Weeds (Wheat & the Tares)

*Matthew 9:24 Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup> But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. <sup>26</sup> When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.*

*<sup>27</sup> "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?'*

*<sup>28</sup> "'An enemy did this,' he replied.*

*"The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'*

*<sup>29</sup> "'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. <sup>30</sup> Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"*

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### What is Jesus Teaching Us in this Parable?

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1. There is encouragement for believers and a warning to unbelievers about Judgement Day

2. There is a warning about counterfeits and lies planted by the enemy to sabotage God's handiwork