

## **Family Time 8: The Kingdom of God**

Throughout his ministry, Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom of God to his disciples. The Kingdom of God is the reign, or rule, of God's everlasting love, justice, and peace. The parables Jesus told helped his followers prepare for the Kingdom.

In this session, the young people read the Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds (Matthew 13:24-30). This parable, which uses an agricultural setting, teaches about who will share in the everlasting happiness of God's Kingdom. Weeds are sown into a landowner's wheat field. When the crop is harvested, the weeds are collected to be burned. Then the wheat is gathered into the barn.

In the parable, Jesus was teaching his followers that the weeds are like sin and that anyone who remains in sin will not enter the Kingdom. However, the people who have lived good lives are promised that they will be part of a great harvest. They will receive the reward of everlasting happiness in Heaven.

Discuss as a family how we can avoid sin and do good in the world. Encourage your child to avoid temptations and to make good choices. Together, pray the prayer below.

### **Prayer of Peace**

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love; where  
there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.**

**O divine Master, grant that I may not so much  
seek to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.**

**Amen.**

(Saint Francis of Assisi)