

ROOTS YOUNG PEOPLE

Go to www.rootsontheweb.com for all templates, links and images. Find Bible notes and more prayers on p.14. Use the BIBLE section below first, then choose activities from the other sections. Extra ideas can be found in *Explore & respond* opposite.

BIBLE Matthew 13.24-30,36-43

Warm up 5 mins E

Lay enough pieces of paper on the floor for one piece per young person to stand on. Play some music but remove one piece of paper. Stop the music and the group member who is last to jump onto a paper island is out. Continue the process in the style of 'musical chairs' until you have a winner.

Emoji reading 10 mins W E S

Give everyone a piece of paper and a pen or ask the young people to open a new message on their phone. Ask them to listen to the reading and to illustrate the passage with emojis as the story unfolds. Which emoji comes to mind when certain words are used? After the reading, allow the young people to look at each other's versions of the story.

Questions to discuss

- What is this parable about? What do the wheat and weeds represent in our world?
- How does Jesus ask us to live in an imperfect world?
- What challenges face those living as a Christian in our world today?

CONNECT

Newspaper weeds 5 mins W A

Looking at a range of newspapers, invite the young people to cut out stories and make two piles – one with 'wheat' (good news) stories and the other with those that are 'weeds' (bad news). Discuss how we are called to live in the world and need to recognise that there are weeds all around.

Jack and the giant 15 mins E S A

Show the group a clip from the film *Jack the giant slayer* [12] (see [WEB](#) for timings). In today's passage, Jesus tells a parable using weeds to represent the imperfect things that we live among. In the film, Jack has to battle the giants to rescue the princess, but he is not afraid. What are the weeds or giants that we face in this imperfect world? What would the world look like without the weeds/giants? Ask: If you could change the world with a couple of magic beans, what would you want changed?

[WEB](#) PostScript: Linking this week's reading to the news

Listen

[WEB](#) See *Young People* page or *Hymns, songs & music* for links to these tracks.

God's not done with you, Tauren Wells on *God's not done with you*
This is the stuff, Francesca Battistelli on *Hundred more years*
Heal our land, Kari Jobe on *The garden*

EXPLORE

Jenga™ madness 10 mins E

Invite the group to play a game of Jenga™. Talk to the young people about what taking the bricks away does to the stability of the tower as a whole. Is this a good analogy for the parable we have looked at today?

Strong in us 15 mins E

Play the song 'Strong in us' (link on [WEB](#)). Working in pairs or on their own, invite the young people to come up with a series of mime actions for a section of the song. After 10 minutes, ask the group to come together and show each other the mime movements they have explored from listening to the song.



Picture pointers [WEB](#)

Questions for reflection

- What do you see in this image?
- Where do you see 'weeds' and 'wheat' growing together in the world?
- How might God be calling you to cope with the tensions this causes?

PRAY

Jenga™ prayers 5 mins S A

Give each of the young people a sticky note and a pen, and ask them to write a prayer about the 'weed' situations in their lives and to fix their prayer to the side of a Jenga™ block. They can then use the blocks to build a tower. Remind everyone that the master did not want the weeds removed by the workers until the harvest. In the same way, we live in a world where we live among the weeds. Taking them out is not our responsibility and would make the tower unstable. So, instead we can pray for these situations and people.

Van Gogh 5 mins E S

Display a copy of Van Gogh's painting *Wheatfield with a reaper* (see [WEB](#)). Ask the young people to look at the picture and, in the quiet, to think about how God is prompting them about the story today.

Live your faith

Pray for God's help during this week, as you face the imperfect weeds of life. **E S**