

# HAVING A LONG VIEW OF GOD'S PLAN IN THIS WORLD

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

PAT NEMMERS

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The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Community Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at [www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons](http://www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons).

## CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- **As a team, play the “Guess the Picture” game together here.** ([https://youtu.be/gQp\\_SkFNIHA](https://youtu.be/gQp_SkFNIHA))
  - Why is it so much easier to figure out what an image is when you can zoom all the way out?
- What are some situations in your life when you wish you could have zoomed out to look at the big picture before making judgements about the moment in front of you?

## APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week's passage together. In his message, **Pastor Pat challenged us to have a long view of God's plan in this world by looking at the Parable of the Wheat and Weeds.**

### Seven Features Identified in the Parable of the Wheat and Weeds:

1. **The Sower of Good Seed = The Son of Man - Jesus (Matthew 13:37)**
  - The seed in the previous parable represents the truth, but in this parable, the seed represents people (see also Isaiah 61:3). Take a few minutes to praise God and encourage one another by going around your group and talking about how Jesus used people in your life to show you the truth of the Gospel.
2. **The Field = The World - NOT the Church (Matthew 13:38)**
  - Sometimes we think about personally reaching “the world” with the Gospel, and it overwhelms us. What if, instead, we began to think about being planted in our neighborhood - and living on mission in our immediate “world”? What would change in your weekly routine if you saw your world that way?
3. **The Good Seed = Sons of the Kingdom (Matthew 13:38)**
  - Good and bad seed look alike early on, so how can we know which is which? Look back at Matthew 7:16 and 13:23 and talk about what that looks like in the life of a Christ follower.
4. **The Bad Seed = Sons of the Evil One - Satan (Matthew 13:38)**
  - Sometimes we hear people say, “Everybody is a child of God.” How might you respond to that statement based on this passage and others in Scripture?
5. **The Sower of Bad Seed = The Devil (Matthew 13:39)**
  - The devil is actively sowing lies as he prowls around like a lion looking for people to devour. Talk about some ways that you can personally, and your group can collectively, counteract the lies Satan spreads.
6. **The Harvest = The End of the Age (Matthew 13:40)**
  - When it comes to the Gospel, contrast God's responsibility and man's responsibility. How do these two distinct but related roles encourage you and motivate you?
  - Who are some specific people you are praying that God will save right now? What might your role be in their salvation?
7. **The Reapers = The Angels (Matthew 13:39-43)**
  - Compare the role of angels in Luke 16:22 and Matthew 13:41-42. What are some other truths about angels that we learn in Scripture? How do those truths compare to our culture's image of angels?
  - How does the existence of angels point us to the glory of God?

***What are you facing right now that might make more sense if you looked at the big picture or had the long view of God's plan?***

## PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Take some time to praise God for working in the little moments, as well as the big picture!

