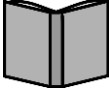




Small Group/ Reflection Notes

	25-10-2026	Parable of the Seeds
 Nibbles <i>whilst you wait</i>	☐ What are you like at caring for plants?	
 Starters <i>discussion</i>	☐ What do weeds do to other vegetation/ plants? ☐ How confident are you in being able to tell what is a weed and what isn't? ☐ In society, and even the Church, what damage can be done if we fixate on removing what we perceive to be 'weeds'? ☐ In society, and even in the Church, can 'good' live alongside 'bad'? Why? How?	
 Read	Matthew 13:24-30 & 36-43	 Listen again ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Watch ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Talks
 Mains Bible study	☐ v.24 : 'told them' is literally, 'served up'. How? Why was it not just 'a man'? See v.37 . Why did Jesus prefer this little used/ understood title? Who did Jesus say was the good seed? See v.38 . How do you reconcile this with what Jesus had previously said was the 'good seed'? See v.23 . ☐ v.25 : Why might someone sow weeds into a field of wheat? What would it say about them? How do different translations translate 'weeds' ζιζάνια (zizania)? See here . ☐ v.26 : What would happen to the field? How do <u>we</u> see/ experience this in life? ☐ v.27-28 : What's the 'pull' to pull up 'weeds'? Have you ever pulled up a weed only later to discover it wasn't a weed? Why do some seem so keen to judge others as 'weeds'? ☐ v.29 : What would be the consequence? What is the loving this to do? Why? ☐ v.30 : How do we co-exist with others we believe are 'weeds'? How does what Jesus has done enable us to <i>choose</i> whether we live as 'good seed' or 'bad seed'?	
 Sides <i>for interest</i>	☐ v.40-43 : The Valley of Gehenna just outside Jerusalem was where trash/ human waste/ even corpses of 'sinners' were disposed of/ burnt. Its fires burnt day & night, leaving fragments of bones/ teeth; wild dogs scavenged for scraps; vile the smell of trash/ burning flesh was vile. Given Jewish purity customs, to go there was to be defiled. Truly horrific; truly Gehenna? Why ☐ Look up where/ how Gehenna is referred to/ used in the Bible. See here . ☐ Why might so many Bibles translate (substitute) 'Gehenna' as 'hell'? ☐ What if.. the popular concept of Hell, with eternal torment, owes more to the medieval fantasy of Dante Alighieri's <i>Inferno</i> and 'doom painters' Botticelli, Bosch, and Buonarrotti, than to the Bible?	

	☐ What is 'hell on earth'? How are we, as good seed, to sprinkle heaven on earth?
 Desserts <i>for reflection</i>	☐ Which verse stands out to you? Why do you think it grabs your attention? ☐ Which verse(s) will you need to think more about? Why? ☐ Which 'seed' are you? When are you the <i>other</i> seed? Which 'seed' do you aspire to be?
 Do	☐ Do some weeding. There's always weeding to be done on the church carpark! Pray as you weed.
 Pray	
 My questions:	

Access Small Group/ Reflection notes from: ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Notes

If you're not yet in a small group, why not join one! Check out : ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/SmallGroups

Can't see a group to suit your availability/interest? Start one! SmallGroups@ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk

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