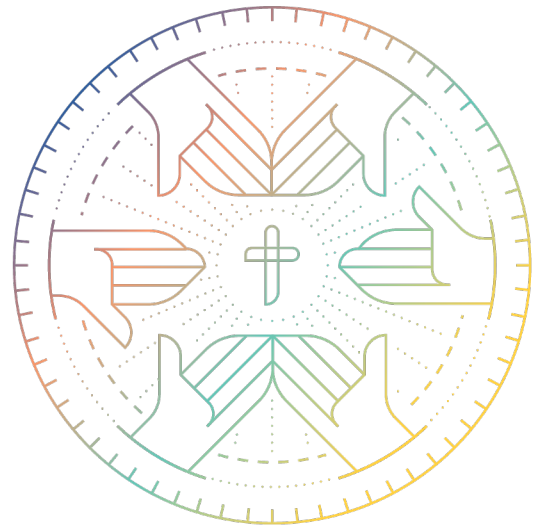


Group Life.

W E A R E B E T T E R T O G E T H E R



SMALL GROUP GUIDE

More Than a Story: “Shine Like the Sun”
Scripture Focus: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

ICEBREAKER

What’s something you’ve tried to grow—either a plant, a garden, or even a habit—that took more patience than you expected?

Have you ever felt discouraged by the brokenness around you—in culture, your workplace, or your community? How do you typically respond?

INTRODUCTION

Jesus’ parable of the wheat and the weeds gives us a striking picture of the world we live in—a place where both good and evil grow side by side. But rather than uprooting the weeds immediately, Jesus tells us to trust the process and stay faithful. The parable reminds us that God is patient, purposeful, and fully in control. In the midst of a culture that often feels chaotic or confusing, Jesus invites His followers to ‘shine like the sun.’

What stood out to you from the message this week?

INTO THE WORD

Read Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43 and John 12:24.

- What does this parable reveal about God’s role versus our role in dealing with good and evil?
- How does the image of wheat being planted intentionally by God encourage you personally?

Read Galatians 2:20 and Hebrews 12:1–2.

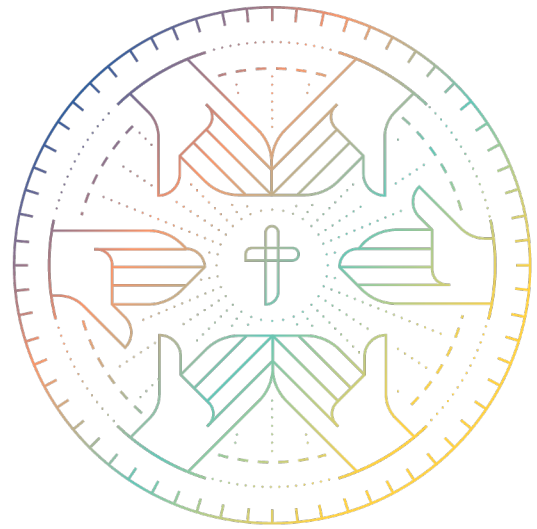
- What does it look like to stay rooted in truth rather than conforming to culture?
- How do these verses help us live with purpose in a culture that may not share our values?

Read Matthew 13:28–30 and 2 Peter 3:8–10.

- Why do you think God allows both wheat and weeds to grow until the harvest?
- What’s the difference between being discerning and being judgmental? How do we grow in grace rather than gripe?

Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



EMBRACE AND EMBODY

Jesus' story of wheat and weeds isn't just a teaching about the end—it's an invitation for how to live now. To embrace this parable is to trust that God has intentionally planted us in this generation, in this place, for His purpose. Are you living like someone planted by God or someone reacting to weeds around you?

Some of us might feel frustrated with the state of the world. But Jesus reminds us: God is patient, and His judgment will come. You don't have to be the judge—you're called to be the wheat. So instead of being consumed by outrage or fear, what would it look like to stay rooted in God's truth this week?

To embody this message means choosing spiritual endurance over spiritual escape. Shine like the sun. Live the Essentials: Seek God Daily, Build Deep Relationships, Serve Others, Live Generously, Make God Known, and Worship God. This is how wheat grows strong, even among weeds.

PRAYER PRACTICE

Invite your group to take a moment of quiet. Ask them to imagine themselves as a single stalk of wheat, rooted in God's soil, growing among weeds.

Say: 'What's God saying to you right now about your purpose, your patience, or your posture in the world? Where do you need to trust that God is in control?'

After a minute of reflection, close in prayer.

CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, You are the faithful sower who has planted us in this world on purpose. Give us patience when we feel surrounded by darkness. Help us not to react with fear or judgment, but to grow in grace and truth. Shine through us, even when it's hard. Strengthen our roots in You, and remind us that Your justice will come. May we live with endurance and hope as we await Your return. In Your name, Amen.