

Let us sketch a wheat field, with a lot of waving heads of grain in it, and amongst the grain many tall weeds growing. Now we'll listen to Jesus' story or parable.

An Enemy Hath Done This—A man sowed good seed in his field, but while he slept an enemy came and sowed tares (a kind of weed) among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat grew, there were seen the tares growing up amongst it. The man's servants came to him asking how the tares got there. "An enemy hath done this", he said. Then the servants ask if they shall go and pluck out the tares. "No", he said, "lest while you are plucking out the tares, you might pull out the good wheat also. Let both grow together till harvest time", etc. (v. 30).

The Enemy Satan—Then Jesus tells them the meaning of this story. The Sower of the good seed is Jesus. The field is the world. The good seed are the children of God's kingdom. The tares are the children of the wicked one. The enemy that sowed them is Satan. The harvest is the end of the world. The reapers are the angels.

The Weeds Taken Out—Some time Jesus will send His angels, and they will gather out of the world all things and people who are sinful, and will destroy and punish them,

but the children of God's kingdom shall live on in joy and peace and goodness.

Heart Gardens—In our heart-gardens many weeds grow up. We shall name some of them, —pride, anger, selfishness, etc. The best way to treat these weeds is to make the good plants of love, gentleness, kindness, etc., grow so big and strong in our hearts, that there will be no room for the bad weeds to grow and they will be crowded out. This is the best way to help God's kingdom to grow,—keep sowing lots of good seed. Jesus will destroy the sin weeds, and the good shall have joy in His kingdom.

A Hymn Verse—

"O what can little hearts do
To please the King of Heaven?
Our hearts, if God His Spirit send,
Can love and trust their Saviour Friend:
Such grace to mine be given."

—Hymn 532, Book of Praise

Symbol—The LIPS will remind us that Jesus spoke of the enemy Satan sowing bad seed.

Helping Jesus—We must try to keep Satan from sowing seeds of sin in our hearts and in the hearts of others. We hinder Jesus, when we let the sin seeds take root in our hearts.

Something to Think About—I should help, not hinder, Jesus.

FROM THE PLATFORM

CARELESSLY SOWN
CERTAINLY GROWN
CAREFULLY MOWN
CALLED BY THEIR OWN

As the classes are assembling for the closing exercises, print on the blackboard the above four lines. Your work will help to quiet the scholars. Pause a moment before you say that there is just enough time left to see the history of the seeds of tares. Ask what the tares represent. Yes, evil thoughts, words and actions. Does one need to resolve and plan, in order to sow tares? No, they may be CARELESSLY SOWN (point out). As we grow up, do these seeds die? No, there comes a day when we see that they have CERTAINLY GROWN (point). All around us tares are flourishing. What are we to do about them? Are we to attack them in anger? No, no! They must be CAREFULLY MOWN, or we shall do a lot of harm. God will take these evils out of life, and allow them to be CALLED BY THEIR OWN kind. Shall we not pray, "Deliver us from evil?"