

Questions for Personal Study or Group Discussion

Open

- When you were young, was there someone in your family who loved to play pranks and practical jokes? Are there any pranks or jokes that you can't forget?

Read

- Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43

Observe

- Why do you think Jesus used this particular parable? Was it the audience? The lesson he wanted to communicate?
- Who is the "sower" in this parable? What does the "good seed" represent? The "bad seed?" The enemy? The harvest?
- Why do you think the disciples were so puzzled by this parable?
- If you had been there, listening as Jesus told this parable, would you have understood the meaning right away? Why or why not?

Apply

- What is the "harvest field" like where God has put you? What instruction is God giving you about how to proceed?
- The servants in the parable wanted to go out immediately and pull up the weeds. Why did the owner tell them to wait? What is Jesus saying to us in the owner's words?
- Why are patience and tolerance toward unbelievers difficult for us?

Recommended Reading

- The Shift Church Lenten Guides – Week 1