



Making Family Bread – Matthew 13:24-43

Parables – Grades 3-5

Children and adults alike are tempted to judge others by their appearance. In the first parable found in today's Gospel, we are warned against judging people, and we are reminded that final judgment rests with God.

Materials Needed

- Two wrapped boxes, one wrapped in plain paper and one wrapped in decorated paper

Preparation for Sunday Scripture Readings

1. Show the group the two wrapped boxes. Ask: *If you could choose one of these gifts, which would you choose and why?* (Accept all reasonable answers.)
2. Say: *I have just asked you to make a judgment based on appearances. We often do this in our lives. We judge things, and sometimes we even judge people based on first impressions and appearances. This is not the way that God judges. Jesus told a parable about this to teach us about God's judgment. Let's listen carefully to this parable.*
3. Invite one or more volunteers to read aloud today's Gospel in its shorter form, Matthew 13:24-30.
4. Ask: *In this parable the sower makes a surprising decision. He allows the wheat and the weeds to grow together. Why does he do this?* (He says that pulling the weeds before the harvest will damage the wheat as well.) *What alternative does he offer to pulling up the weeds?* (The sower says to wait until harvest time, when the wheat and the weeds can be pulled up together and separated without harming the wheat.) *What does this parable tell us about God's judgment?* (Accept all reasonable answers.)
5. Ask: *If this is the way that God judges, what might be the lesson for us about judging things by their appearances?* (Accept all reasonable answers.)
6. Pray together, thanking God for the wisdom to withhold judgment. Pray together the Prayer of Saint Francis or the Act of Love.

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