

Children's Liturgy of the Word – 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Theme:

The Wheat and the Weeds

Gospel:

Matthew 13:24–43

Main Message:

God is patient with us. He gives us time to grow, change, and become the people He wants us to be.

1. Welcome & Gathering

(Gather the children calmly.)

Leader:

Good morning everyone.

Today Jesus tells a story about a farmer, a field, wheat, and weeds.

At first it sounds like a story about gardening.

But Jesus is teaching us something important about God's love.

Sometimes people make mistakes.

Sometimes people do wrong things.

Sometimes we make wrong choices ourselves.

But God is patient.

He gives us chances to learn, to grow, and to become better.

Today we will discover how much God loves us and how patient He is with us.

Let us begin with the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader:

Lord Jesus,

Thank You for loving us.

Thank You for being patient with us.

Help us to listen to Your word today.

Help us to grow in goodness.

Help us to become more like You.

Amen.

2. Opening Conversation

Ask:

- Have you ever planted flowers or vegetables?
- Have you ever seen weeds in a garden?
- What happens if weeds grow among flowers?
- Have you ever made a mistake and needed another chance?

Allow answers.

Then say:

Today Jesus tells us about wheat growing in a field and weeds growing alongside it.

And He teaches us something wonderful about God's patience.

3. Gospel (Simplified)

Leader reads slowly and clearly:

Jesus told this story:

A farmer planted good seed in his field.

But during the night an enemy planted weeds among the wheat.

As the wheat grew, the weeds grew too.

The servants asked:

"Should we pull up the weeds?"

But the farmer said:

"No.

Leave them both to grow until harvest time.

If you pull up the weeds now, you might pull up the wheat too."

Jesus explained that God is patient.

He gives people time to change, grow, and choose what is good.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Children:

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

4. Reflection

In today's Gospel the servants want to pull up the weeds immediately.

They want to fix the problem straight away.

But the farmer says:

"Wait."

Why?

Because he cares about the wheat.

He does not want to damage it.

Jesus says God is like that.

God is patient.

He does not give up on people.

He gives them time.

Time to learn.

Time to grow.

Time to change.

Time to become saints.

Built-In Activity 1: Second Chances

Ask:

Have you ever made a mistake?

Have you ever needed another chance?

Allow answers.

Then say:

Most of us are glad when people give us another chance.

God gives us chances too.

God Is Patient

Think about learning to ride a bicycle.

Did you get it right the first time?

Probably not.

Maybe you fell off.

Maybe you wobbled.

Maybe you needed help.

But you kept trying.

And eventually you improved.

Growing in faith is often like that.

We learn.

We try again.

We keep growing.

And God is patient with us.

Built-In Activity 2: Learning New Things

Ask:

What new things have you learned?

- Riding a bike?
- Swimming?
- Reading?

- Football?

Did it happen instantly?

(No.)

Then explain:

Growing in goodness takes time too.

Wheat and Weeds

The farmer knows the difference between wheat and weeds.

But he waits patiently.

Jesus is teaching us something important.

Sometimes we are quick to judge people.

Sometimes we think:

"That person is bad."

"That person always gets things wrong."

But God sees much more than we do.

God sees what people can become.

Built-In Activity 3: Don't Judge Too Quickly

Ask:

Have you ever been wrong about someone?

Maybe you thought they would not be friendly, but they were.

Maybe you thought they could not do something, but they could.

Then explain:

God sees people's hearts.

He sees possibilities that we cannot see.

Saints Who Changed

Many saints were not perfect at first.

St Peter made mistakes.

St Paul once persecuted Christians.

St Augustine spent years making wrong choices.

Yet God was patient with them.

And they became saints.

That means God can work in us too.

Built-In Activity 4: Saints Can Grow

Ask:

Were saints born perfect?

(No.)

Then explain:

Saints became saints because they kept saying yes to God.

Built-In Activity 5: God Helps Me Grow

Leader:

Let's say together:

God is patient with me.

(Repeat)

God helps me grow.

(Repeat)

God never gives up on me.

(Repeat)

I will keep trying.

(Repeat)

Quiet Prayer Moment

Leader:

Let us be quiet for a moment.

Jesus, thank You for loving me.

Pause.

Jesus, thank You for being patient with me.

Pause.

Jesus, help me grow in goodness.

Pause.

Jesus, help me become a saint.

Pause.

Amen.

Living the Gospel This Week

Leader:

This week we can grow like good wheat by:

- saying our prayers
 - being kind
 - helping at home
 - forgiving others
 - trying again when we make mistakes
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Built-In Activity 6: Growing Goodness

Ask:

What good thing can you do this week?

Allow answers.

Examples:

- Help at home
 - Pray every day
 - Share with others
 - Be patient
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Children's Intercessions

Leader:

God is patient and loving.

Let us pray together.

For the Church, that she may help people grow closer to God.

Lord, hear us.

For Pope Leo, Bishop Patrick, priests and deacons, that God may bless their ministry.

Lord, hear us.

For children everywhere, that they may grow in faith, hope, and love.

Lord, hear us.

For people who have made mistakes, that they may know God's mercy and forgiveness.

Lord, hear us.

For our families, that we may be patient and kind with one another.

Lord, hear us.

For the sick, the lonely, and those who are sad, that God may comfort them.

Lord, hear us.

For all who have died, that they may live forever with God in Heaven.

Lord, hear us.

(Optional Hail Mary.)

Closing Prayer

Leader:

Lord Jesus,

Thank You for Your patience.

Thank You for Your love.

Help us to grow in goodness.

Help us to become more like You.

And help us to trust that You never give up on us.

Amen.

Sending Back

Leader:

Today we heard:

God is patient.

God helps me grow.

God never gives up on me.

And I will keep following Him.

Let us return quietly to Mass.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Additional Optional Activities

7. Garden Detective

Best place: Opening Conversation

Ask:

Can you name some flowers?

Can you name some weeds?

Then explain:

Farmers and gardeners want good plants to grow.

God wants goodness to grow in us.

8. Pulling Weeds

Best place: Reflection

Ask:

What happens if you pull a plant out by mistake?

Then explain:

The farmer waited because he did not want to harm the wheat.

God is patient too.

9. Growing Tall

Best place: Reflection

Leader:

Pretend to be tiny wheat seeds.

Now slowly grow taller and taller.

Stretch upwards.

Then explain:

God wants us to keep growing in faith.

10. Patience Challenge

Best place: Reflection

Ask:

When is it hard to be patient?

- Waiting for Christmas?
- Waiting for a birthday?
- Waiting your turn?

Then explain:

God is always patient with us.

11. Spot The Difference

Best place: Reflection

Ask:

Can you always tell immediately whether something will grow well?

(No.)

Then explain:

God sees what people can become.

12. Saints Who Needed Time

Best place: Reflection

Leader:

Peter.

Paul.

Augustine.

All needed time to grow.

God was patient with them.

13. Mercy Actions

Best place: Reflection

Ask children to show:

- a kind face
- a forgiving face
- a patient face

Then explain:

These are ways we become more like Jesus.

14. Echo Prayer

Best place: Before Intercessions

Leader:

God is patient—

Children: With me!

Leader:

God is loving—

Children: With me!

Leader:

God helps me—

Children: Grow!

Leader:

God calls me—

Children: To be holy!

15. Good Wheat

Best place: Living the Gospel

Ask:

What good fruit can grow in our lives?

- Kindness
- Sharing
- Prayer
- Forgiveness
- Love

16. This Week I Will

Best place: Living the Gospel

Be patient

Pray every day

- Forgive someone
- Help at home
- Try again after a mistake

Children choose one.

17. Final Memory Line

Best place: Sending Back

Repeat together three times:

"God is patient with me. God helps me grow. God never gives up on me."

A simple message children can remember throughout the week.