

The Gospel of Matthew: When It Has Grown

Discussion Guide for January 24 and 25, 2026

Summary

This week's message explores three parables Jesus tells in Matthew 13—the Parable of the Weeds, the Mustard Seed, and the Leaven. Together, they reveal how the Kingdom of Heaven grows and advances in a world marked by opposition. Though evil exists alongside good and the Kingdom may begin small and hidden, Jesus assures His followers that God is in control. The Kingdom will grow, permeate the world, and ultimately be fully revealed at the end of the age. These parables call us to trust God's timing, focus on faithful growth, and participate in His unstoppable work.

Intro Prayer

Lord, thank You for Your Kingdom that is growing even when we cannot see it. Help us trust Your timing, discern truth from falsehood, and remain faithful as You work in and through us. Give us eyes to see Your purposes and hearts committed to Your mission. Amen.

Ice Breaker

Have you ever worked hard on something that seemed small or insignificant at first, only to later realize how much it grew or mattered? How did that change your perspective?

Key Verses

1. Matthew 13:24-43

Discussion Questions

- 1.** In the Parable of the Weeds, why does the master allow the wheat and weeds to grow together until the harvest? What does this teach us about God's patience and justice?
- 2.** Jesus clearly says the field is the world—not just the church. How does that shape the way we understand our role as believers living among both wheat and weeds?
- 3.** What concerns or fears about the future of God's Kingdom do the parables of the Mustard Seed and Leaven address?
- 4.** Why is it tempting to focus on identifying or removing "weeds" rather than nurturing healthy growth in our own faith?
- 5.** How do the images of growth (mustard seed) and influence (leaven) encourage us when our obedience feels small or unnoticed?
- 6.** What does it look like, practically, to trust God with the final judgment while remaining faithful to disciple, love, and share the gospel now?

Life Application

This week, reflect on where God has placed you as "good seed." Rather than being discouraged by opposition or slow results, ask how you can faithfully grow and influence others through obedience, love, and truth. Trust that God is at work—persistently, pervasively, and irreversibly—through His Kingdom.

Key Takeaways

1. God allows both righteousness and evil to exist for a time, but He alone determines the outcome.
2. The Kingdom of Heaven may begin small and unseen, but it will grow and influence the entire world.
3. Our calling is not to uproot the weeds, but to faithfully grow, trust God's timing, and participate in His mission.

Ending Prayer

Father, thank You that Your Kingdom cannot be stopped. Help us trust You when growth feels slow and the world feels dark. Strengthen our faith, deepen our obedience, and use our lives to reflect Your Kingdom wherever You have planted us. May we shine like the sun in Your Kingdom, now and forever. In Jesus' name, Amen.