

# Growth Teams

Week Beginning  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017

## Going deeper

1 Thessalonians is one of the earliest letters in the Bible. It is Paul's message to one of the churches he founded in Macedonia (North Greece) during his second missionary journey. In this section he is keen to remind them of the Christian understanding of life after death and the end time.

## Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

6. What key facts about the end of time is Paul keen to ensure we understand? What does he say we should do with these facts? (4:18; 5:11)
  
7. When will all Jesus's followers be gathered together? What will happen to them when they are gathered (4:17; 5:9-10)? How does this add to the understanding of the Parable of the Weeds?
  
8. What will happen to those who do not belong to Christ? (5:1-3)
  
9. In what way does Paul contrast followers of Christ with the rest of the world? How does this echo the Parable of the Weeds?
  
10. Why does Paul say we are to put on faith, love and hope? (cf. 1:3)

*Now do the applying it to our lives questions...*

## Growth Team News

There are three daytime Growth Teams running this year on the dates and times below. Why not try one out at the start of a new year. They are a great place to think further about the Bible's teaching, pray together and support one another.

At present there aren't any evening Growth Teams, but we are starting a three Week course, **Tuesday 7:30pm** in the Vicarage called, **Through the Bible**, which will be looking at how the Bible fits together.



**Growing in Christ  
to glorify God  
and enjoy Him forever.**

## The Weeds

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (page 979 & 980)

Space to take notes on the talk

Why \_\_\_\_\_?

The Sowing: \_\_\_\_\_

Waiting for the Harvest: \_\_\_\_\_

Burning the Weeds: \_\_\_\_\_

Gathering the Wheat: \_\_\_\_\_

## Starter question

- ❖ What do you find hardest to wait for?

## Responding to the talk

1. What from this week's sermon do you most hope to talk about in the group?
2. Read Matthew 13:24-30; 36-39.
  - a. What does Jesus say the various elements of the Parable stand for?
  - b. Who does the parable say are the sources of good and evil?
  - c. Why is it important to understand this?
3. Read Matthew 13:24-30
  - a. What reason does the owner give for not pulling up the weeds?
  - b. What problems are there with us acting to judge people now (cf. 1 Cor. 4:5)?
  - c. How does this help us accept that the world or the church will not be perfect until the end?
4. Read Matthew 13:40-42
  - a. Who are the weeds according to these verses?
  - b. Why is it good news that they are burned?
  - c. What is the promise for those in God's Kingdom (cf. Dan. 12:1-3)?

*You may like to do the 'Going Deeper' questions over the page.*

## Applying it to our lives

11. Someone complains that Christians are 'hypocrites' that the Church is so imperfect. How would you answer them?
12. In the light of what will happen at the end, which things in life become less important and which become more important?