Growth Group Sermon Questions:

Jan 24th, 2021

**Behold!**

**The Kingdom of Heaven**

1. Jon mentioned that the “wheat” and the “weeds” (*zizania*), described in the parable found in Matthew 13:24-30, look identical to each other; the only difference being that the weeds (*zizania*) were poisonous to the wheat. How can we identify the difference between the wheat and the weeds in our midst?
2. In Matthew 13:39-41 we encounter the Greek phrase “*skandalon,*” which refers to “a snare or stumbling block that causes people to trip up.” There are “*skandalons*” all around us in our world. Three primary “*skandalons”* that we face are the lust of the flesh, the love of money (greed), and the desire for fame and control (a self-centered reality). What are some practical measures you have implemented in your life to help you navigate our “*skandalon*” filled world?
3. The reality that there are weeds (*zizania*) and stumbling blocks (*skandalons*) around us may cause us to lose hope. However, Jesus seeks to encourage us by sharing the parable of the mustard seed (Matthew 13:31-32), which illustrates to us that the power of God is such that something as small as a mustard seed when planted becomes a large source of strength for many; this captures the power of God in our lives. Share with your group an experience that helped you to remember how powerful God is in our lives?
4. At the eschaton (the end of time), the wheats are harvested and gathered into Jesus’s barn (His kingdom) and the weeds (zizania) are bundled up and thrown into the fire. As a group, who are you praying for right now to receive the seed of life that Jesus sows in our hearts?