

Person One: I'll need several people to help me tell this story, a story that Jesus once told. To start with, I need a farmer. XXXXX, will you be the farmer?

Person Two: Certainly. As long as I don't have to do any heavy digging.

Person One: Oh, not, not this farmer. You see, this farmer had quite a few fields, so he had fieldworkers to help him. Do you want to pick someone to do your digging and planting?

[Person Two selects an older child]

Person One: The farmer told his fieldworker:

Person Two: I need this field planted with wheat. [Person Two indicates the area between the choir stalls.] Could you find ten seeds for me? Go pick ten children to be seeds and bring them up here to plant them in my field.

[Child retrieves ten other children. Person One helps the child to 'plant' the other children.]

Person One: The farmer was very happy with the fieldworker's efforts.

Person Two: Well done!

Person One: But the farmer had an old enemy, who always tried to ruin things for him. Who wants to be the farmer's enemy?

[Person One chooses child]

Person One: So that night, the farmer and his fieldworker were asleep, snoring away.

[Encourages snoring noises from Person Two and child]

Person One: The enemy saw that the others were asleep, so he rubbed his hands and he made an evil laugh.

[Person One urges the child to do an evil laugh.]

Person One: So the enemy decided to take some seeds of his own, seeds from all sorts of weeds, and put them into the field. [Person One speaks to second child] Do you want to pick ten children to be the weeds?

[Child retrieves ten other children, and Person One helps him to jam them in with the previous ten.]

Person One: So as the wheat seeds grew, so did all the seeds of the weeds. The fieldworker saw this, and shook his head sadly.

[urge child to shake head]

He went to the farmer to show him what had happened. The farmer said:

Person Two: This was done by my enemy. He's never liked me.

Person One: The fieldworker tried to separate the weeds from the wheat, but the plants were growing too close together. [Person One encourages the child to try, and to fail) The farmer said:

Person Two: You'd better stop. If you try to take out the weeds, you'll only pull up the wheat. Let them grow up together until harvest time. Then we can separate out the good wheat from the bad weeds.

[Children thanked, sent back to their seats]

Person One: When good seeds and weed seeds are young, it's hard to tell the difference between them. And it's the same with all of us. We all have good bits, and bad bits. We all do good things—and we also do things which we know are wrong.

Person Two: God gives us time to grow up, to decide whether to be like good wheat which helps others, or to decide to be like weeds, which only take from other people. In this story, Jesus is telling us that it's important not to judge other people, or ourselves, too soon. God forgives us and gives us second chances—and we should do the same for other people.