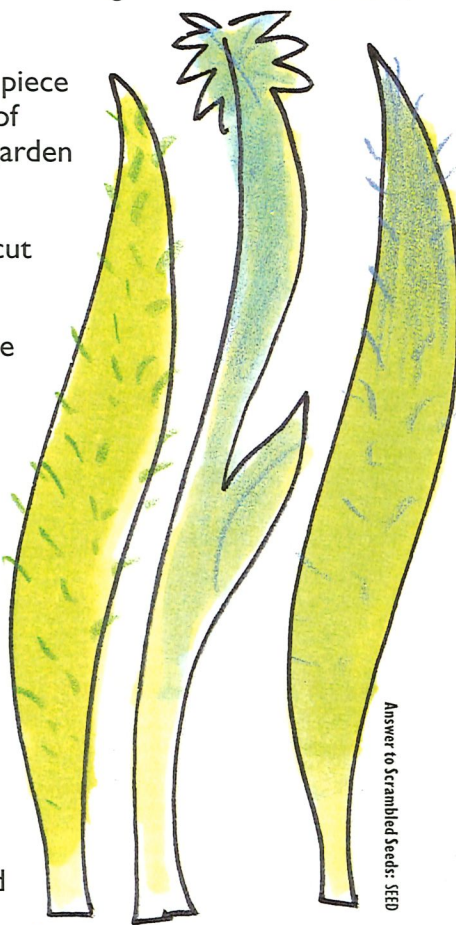


Family Page

We all have a difficult time dealing with the idea that some things in this world, according to our way of thinking, are just not fair. Some who do evil deeds seem to get all the breaks. The poor suffer without consolation. But each of us must learn that God is never “fooled” and will not be outdone when it comes to justice. What happens to the evildoers is God’s business. All we can do is lead our own lives in such a way that we do not add to the evil that happens in the world. This week, concentrate on “weeding out” the small evils in your own lives.



- 1** Draw a lovely garden on a large piece of cardboard or paper; add lots of flowers and greenery. Cover the garden with a sheet of clear plastic wrap.
- 2** Using the pattern on this page, cut out several weeds.
- 3** On the front of each weed, write one bad habit you have that you would like to remove from your garden. Keep a few blank weeds in reserve.
- 4** Tape the weeds onto the plastic wrap over your garden.
- 5** This week, work on those bad habits, removing the weeds as you overcome them. If you find yourself falling into new evils, add new weeds to the garden.
- 6** See if you can completely free your garden of weeds by the end of the week.



Answer to Scrambled Seeds: SEED



explaining GOD'S WORD

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) † Matthew 13:24-43 or 13:24-30 † July 19, 2026



WHAT IS THIS FARMER SOWING?

Jesus tells a story about this farmer in this week's gospel. He is sowing something good. To find out what is in his sack, complete the game inside.



"That's Not Fair!"

How many times have you said, "That's not fair"? Maybe some child at school is allowed to do things you can't do. Or maybe someone does something wrong and doesn't get caught. There are so many things in life that just don't seem quite fair. Robbers, murderers, troublemakers, people who are mean and selfish — why doesn't God stop them?

The apostles wondered about this too. So Jesus told them a story about a farmer who worked all day planting wheat in his field. Then, during the night, his enemy came and planted ugly weed seeds in the farmer's field.

That certainly wasn't fair, was it? What do you think that farmer did? Well, he just let those old weeds grow right along with the wheat until the wheat was strong enough and the weeds were tall enough so the farmer could tell the difference between them when it was time to harvest. Then he separated all the weeds from the wheat and threw them into the fire.



The good seeds are people who try to follow God's laws and live in a kind and loving way. The weeds are people who are selfish and mean, who try to keep good seeds from growing in God's love.

God knows who is good and who is bad. God knows what is fair and what isn't. God lets the weeds and wheat grow together, but only the wheat — the people who listen to God's Word and try to follow it — will live with God in heaven one day.

Scrambled Seeds

Good seeds are the kind and loving things we do. Unscramble the good-seed words below and write them on the lines. The letters in the circles will spell out what the farmer on the cover is planting. Place the letters on his sack.

ARSHE					
VELO					
LEHP					
EB DINK					

