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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, July 23, 2017

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Year A

Scripture: [Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43](#) [**Summary:** *Parable of the Weeds*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies needed.

ASK (a.k.a. *The On-Ramp*)

- Good morning!
- I have a question for you:
- What kind of surprises do you think people usually like? (an unexpected gift, maybe a party for them, good news about a friend)
- What kind of surprises do you think people don't like too much? (getting sick, taking a test you didn't know about, thinking you did well on a test and then finding out that you didn't do well on it, canceled plans)
- Thank you for your answers.
- Your answers help us to think about how there are all sorts of surprises in life, both exciting and unwanted surprises.

TELL (a.k.a. *The Freeway*)

- In today's scripture story, Jesus tells a story about a surprise.
- In the story that Jesus tells, there was a field of grain that some workers had planted.
- However, it turned out that while the grain grew, so did a whole bunch of weeds.
- Kind of a bummer of a surprise, don't you think?
- So, the workers first thought that they should pull those weeds out
- But then, they did something really smart.

- Instead of just acting on their first thought, they asked their boss what they should do.
- The workers asked their boss, "Hey, we were going to pull out those surprise weeds. What do you think about that?"
- And then, do you remember what their boss told them?
- That's right - the boss says, "Nope, don't do that. It'll hurt the grain."
- Good thing the workers didn't pull out those weeds, yeah!? They would've done more harm than good.

SHARE the Good News (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- As we noticed just a few minutes ago, there sure are a lot of surprises in life.
- One of the reasons Jesus tells this story, I think, is to remind us that we can ask for God's help whenever we are surprised.
- Just like the workers asked their boss about what they should do when they were surprised, so too can we ask God, right then and there, about the best way we can respond when we are surprised.
- And when we do that, when we invite God into our feelings of surprise and our surprising moments, then we are more likely to respond in a way that does less harm and more good.
- That's the good news for today.
- Let's pray – this is a repeat-after-me prayer (see CLOSING Prayer)

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,

Dear God,

Thank you...

Thank you...

...that you are with us...

...that you are with us...

...and willing to help us...

...and willing to help us...

...even in moments of surprise.

...even in moments of surprise.

Amen