Preschool–Grade 5

Wheat and the Tares Craft

Let both grow together · Matthew 13:24–30 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



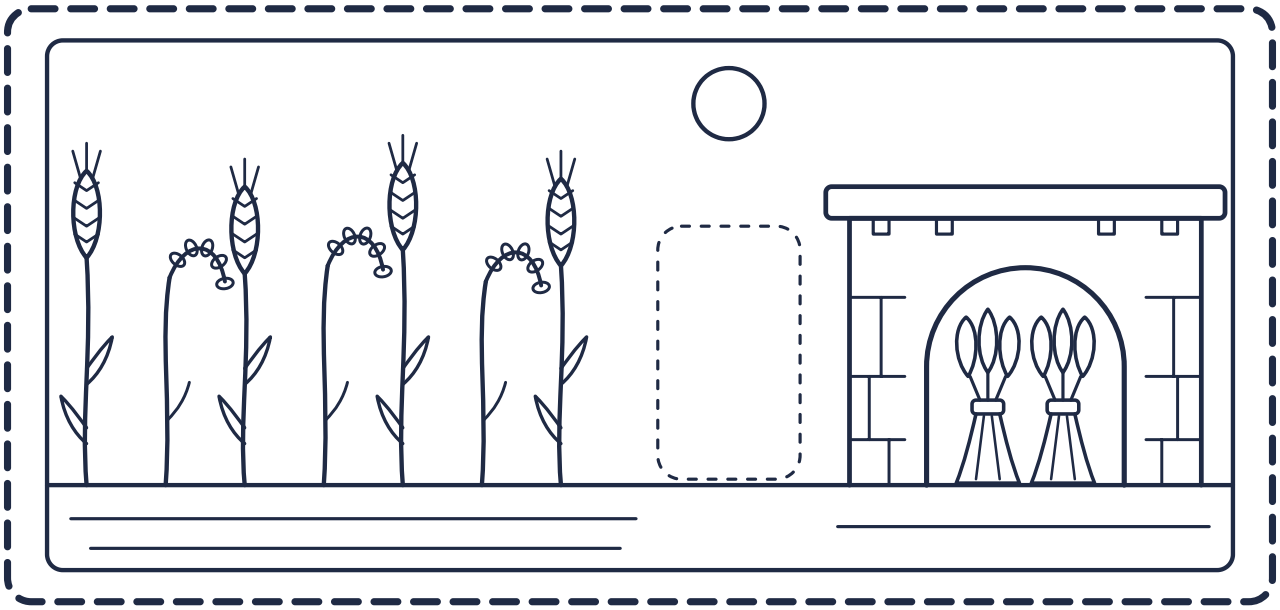
Harder

Both levels are a wide field card. On the left, yellow wheat with full heads of grain and dark green tares with drooping heads grow side by side in brown ground, "Let both grow together until the harvest" (Matthew 13:30). On the right stands a tan stone barn with a flat brown roof. Its two brown doors open to show two yellow sheaves of wheat inside: "gather the wheat into my barn." Medium (left): the card with its doors. Harder (right): the same, plus a dark green bundle of tares tied around the middle with brown yarn, glued in the box beside the field, because the reapers would "bind them in bundles" (13:30).

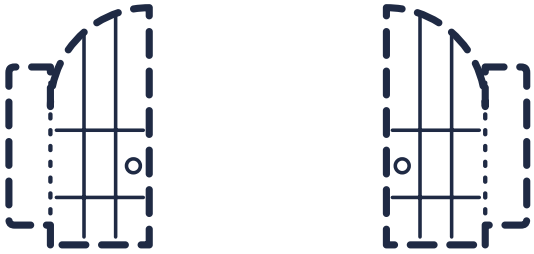
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Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



card: sky light blue, sun yellow, ground brown. Wheat (the full heads of grain) yellow; tares (the drooping heads) dark green. Barn walls tan, roof brown, the two sheaves inside yellow. Leave the dotted box empty (it is for the harder level).



left door: both sides brown, fold the tab back

right door: both sides brown, fold the tab back

Glue each door by its tab only, on the barn wall beside the doorway: the left door on the left, the right door on the right. The doors close over the doorway and open.

Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest
I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares,
and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

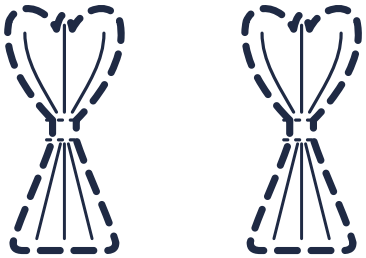
Matthew 13:30 (KJV) · glue this strip on the back of the card

Color each piece the way its label says. Cut out the card, the two doors and the verse strip. You also need a glue stick.

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Name: _____

✂ Harder level



bundle of tares: color it dark green (two pieces, one spare)

Wrap the yarn twice around the narrow middle, between the two dotted lines, and tie a knot. Glue the bundle in the dotted box on the card.

How to make the harder level

1. Make the card, the two doors and the verse strip from page 2 first.
2. Color one bundle of tares dark green. (The second bundle is a spare.)
3. Cut out the bundle on the dashed line.
4. Wrap a piece of brown yarn, about 8 inches long, twice around the narrow middle of the bundle, between the two dotted lines. Tie a knot and trim the ends.
5. Glue the bundle in the dotted box on the card, between the field and the barn.
6. Tell it: the master said, "in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles" (Matthew 13:30). Point to the bundle. Then open the barn doors: "but gather the wheat into my barn."

VBSHQ

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vbshq.com

For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/wheat-and-the-tares-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), crayons or markers in light blue, yellow, brown, dark green and tan, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child and a piece of brown yarn about 8 inches long for each child.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the card, the two doors and the verse strip ahead of time. For the harder level, cut the yarn into 8-inch pieces.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's pieces. Kids color the wheat yellow, the tares green, and the barn and both sides of the doors. Glue the two doors on for them by their tabs, and the verse strip on the back.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, cut and glue the doors. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the card like the medium level, then cut out the bundle of tares from page 3, tie it with yarn and glue it in the dotted box (Matthew 13:30). This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color the sky and ground:** color the sky light blue, the sun yellow and the ground brown.
2. **Color the field:** color the wheat yellow: the stalks, the leaves and the full heads of grain. Color the tares dark green: the stalks, the leaves and the drooping heads.
3. **Color the barn:** color the barn walls tan and the flat roof brown. Color the two sheaves of wheat inside the doorway yellow. Leave the dotted box empty.
4. **Color the doors:** color both sides of the two doors brown, so they look like doors when they open.
5. **Cut:** cut out the card, the left door, the right door and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
6. **Doors:** fold each door's tab back on the dotted line. Glue the left door's tab on the barn wall just left of the doorway, and the right door's tab just right of it, so the doors close over the doorway and open.
7. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the back of the card, and read it together.
8. **Tell it:** point to the field: "Let both grow together until the harvest." Then open the barn doors: "but gather the wheat into my barn" (Matthew 13:30).

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Questions to ask while kids work

- What did the man sow in his field? *(Good seed, Matthew 13:24)*
- When did the enemy come? *(While men slept, 13:25)*
- Point to the tares. Who sowed them among the wheat? *(His enemy, 13:25)*
- When did the tares appear? *(When the blade was sprung up and brought forth fruit, 13:26)*
- What did the servants want to do? *(Go and gather up the tares, 13:28)*
- Why did the master say "Nay"? *(Lest they root up also the wheat with them, 13:29)*
- How long would both grow together? *(Until the harvest, 13:30)*
- Open the barn doors. Where did the wheat go? *(Into his barn, 13:30)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained: sowed** means planted by scattering seed; **tares** are weeds in a grain field; **blade** means the green leaf; **householder** means the man who owns the house and field; **whence** means where from; **nay** means no; **root up** means pull out by the roots; **reapers** are the workers who gather the crop; **bind them in bundles** means tie them in bunches; a **sheaf** is a bundle of grain stalks tied together.
- **What the Bible says:** a man sowed good seed, his enemy sowed tares among the wheat while men slept, and the master said, "Let both grow together until the harvest," then the wheat would be gathered into his barn (Matthew 13:24–30). The passage doesn't describe what the tares or the barn looked like. The drooping heads, the green color, the stone barn with its doors and the sheaves are the craft's simple picture, so kids can tell the wheat and the tares apart.
- **Keep the harvest gentle:** the verse says the tares were bound in bundles to burn them (Matthew 13:30). The craft shows the bundle, not a fire. Say it plainly and point to the wheat safe in the barn.
- **No person is printed, and never Jesus.**
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything and glue the doors on ahead of time. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Let every child open the doors and say, "Gather the wheat into my barn!"
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Wheat and the Tares lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/wheat-and-the-tares.

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