



# Judgment Coming

**Session 12** • Matthew 13:24-30,36-43



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## ENGAGE

**PREPARE:** Display **Pack Item 1** (*Map: Jesus's Ministry Around Galilee*) and **Pack Item 7** (*Poster: Kingdom Parables in Matthew 13*).

**READ:** Call on a volunteer to read the opening paragraph on page 109.

**ASK: What are some other divides you find yourself confronted with daily?** (p. 109)

Discuss responses. Point out that some divisions are harmless, like pulling for a sports team or choosing a flavor of ice cream. Note that the impact of other choices is much more serious.

**REVIEW:** Share that today's session focuses on our most important choice: accepting or rejecting Jesus. Remind adults that Jesus had confronted religious leaders in Matthew 12, and they were ready to kill Him. Note that in Matthew 13, Jesus used parables to further highlight this division.

**CONTEXT:** Direct attention to **Pack Item 7** (*Poster: Kingdom Parables in Matthew 13*) and briefly review each parable. Share this content from **Understand the Context** (p. 109):

- "The Greek word translated 'parable' means 'to lay or place something

alongside of.' A parable lays something alongside something else for comparison or contrast. . . . Matthew 13 contains eight parables that relate truths concerning the kingdom of God. In several of them we find an explanation of the growing divide between those who follow Jesus and those who resist Him."

**TRANSITION:** As we work through these parables, reflect on your walk with Jesus. If you've been putting off a relationship with Him, today is the perfect day to cross the divide. If you are standing with Christ, consider how you can become a more effective "kingdom citizen" and point others to Him.

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## EXPLORE THE TEXT

**CONTEXT:** Direct attention to **Pack Item 1** (*Map: Jesus's Ministry Around Galilee*). Point out that initially Jesus was sitting by the sea (Matt. 13:1). Point out Capernaum on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee and suggest that this area could have been the setting for Matthew 13.

**READ: Guide the group to listen as you read Matthew 13:24-30 aloud.** Encourage them to jot down key points and characters in the margin of their DDG.

**DISCUSS:** Direct attention to **Pack Item 7** (Poster: Kingdom Parables in Matthew 13). Highlight “The Wheat and the Weeds.” Encourage adults to summarize the plot of the parable. Discuss what each element might represent. Enlist a volunteer to read the **Did You Know?** feature (p. 111). Talk about why one group might have sown weeds in the fields of someone else. Highlight the distinction between believers (wheat) and unbelievers (weeds).

**ASK: Is it always possible to distinguish sincere believers from insincere believers? How?** (p. 101)

**RECAP:** To dig deeper into the parable, share the following information:

- **(13:25)** *The Greek word translated “weeds” could refer to several weeds, though it is generally assumed that the weed in question was called “darnel.” This weed was poisonous and carried a fungus that could attack wheat. Early in its maturation it is difficult to tell the difference between darnel and wheat. In the same way, godly and ungodly people populate the same community. While they may outwardly look similar, eventually each will manifest their true nature.*

**STATE:** *While the landowner directed his servants to wait until the harvest to pull anything up, he had definite plans for each kind of plant in his field. Eventually, the weeds would be tied up and burned, while the genuine wheat would be protected and used for his benefit. Likewise, those who reject Christ can expect punishment from Him, while true believers will enter God’s presence.*

*The important thing is not how we look, but how we respond to God.*

**READ:** Lead the group to listen as you read **Matthew 13:36-39** aloud and to identify the symbols in the parable.

**DISCUSS:** Remind adults what each element in the parable symbolizes. Allow volunteers to share why it is important to understand these symbols. Affirm that the disciples recognized this as they heard Jesus teach, so they came to Him later looking for answers to their spiritual questions.

**ASK: Why would Satan want to sow “weeds” in the world?** (p. 111)

**EXPLAIN:** Instruct a volunteer to read John 10:10 aloud. Point out that while Satan is a defeated enemy, he is still powerful, and his main goal is to create chaos and disorder in the world. Remind adults that God created everything “good” in Genesis 1, and Satan has been working to corrupt that goodness ever since.

**RECAP:** Direct attention to the “harvest” at the end of time. Use the following content to highlight how the wheat and weeds will be separated:

- **(13:39)** Jesus promised a harvest at “the end of the age.” This refers to Christ’s return and the final judgment of the world. Looking forward to the end times does not minimize the immediate judgment that occurs at death, but it does remind us that judgment awaits everyone at some point. Jesus identified “the harvesters” as angels who participate in the gathering.

**ASK:** What is the church's responsibility regarding the "weeds" sown by the devil? (p. 111)

**READ:** Enlist a volunteer to read

**Matthew 13:40-43** as adults consider additional images or phrases that capture their attention.

**DISCUSS:** Allow adults to share what resonates with them. Highlight the word picture created by the burning weeds and discuss the implications for both believers and unbelievers. Highlight Matthew 13:40 as the session's memory verse and repeat it aloud together.

**RECAP:** Point out the human response to separation from God for eternity. Share this content from Day 5 of **Daily Exploration** (p. 115) to emphasize the reality of hell and its terrors:

- *"Scripture pictures hell as 'the unquenchable fire' (Mark 9:43). It will also be an 'eternal punishment' (Matt. 25:46). The anguish of this never-ending place of torment and punishment is seen in the reaction of those thrown into the blazing furnace: 'there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' This is a vivid picture of anguish and despair."*

**ASK:** Does knowing there will be a final judgment with eternal consequences bring you comfort or concern? (p. 111)

**SHARE:** Briefly walk through the Plan of Salvation on the inside front cover. Point out that each session during this quarter has highlighted Jesus as Messiah and Savior.

Challenge adults who have not accepted His offer of salvation to talk with you or another trusted leader about becoming a Christ follower and avoiding the coming judgment.

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## CHALLENGE

**DISCUSS:** On the board, list the images Jesus used in the parable (*wheat, weeds, enemy, landowner, harvest, and so forth*). Allow adults to explain what each image symbolizes and why that image is important. Direct attention to the summary statement for this session: *Faith in Jesus determines our eternal destiny*. Encourage the group to discuss the statement and share what God might be saying to them through that truth.

**DISCUSS:** Lead a brief discussion of the **Apply the Text** questions on page 111.

**PRAY:** Close the session in prayer, asking God to help each adult move deeper in their relationship with Him, including those who may be reaching out to Him for the first time. Pray that the group will have discernment as they act as wheat and seek to minister to weeds before Jesus comes back.

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## AFTER THE SESSION

Send a text or email to the group, encouraging them to read and reflect on the **Apply the Text** question on page 115. Share that the group will be starting a series of studies on the second half of Matthew's Gospel (chaps. 14–28) during the next session.

# VISUAL IDEAS

These items are available in the *Explore the Bible: Leader Pack* (see [goExploreTheBible.com](http://goExploreTheBible.com)) or you can use these descriptions to create your own.

## Pack Item 1

**Map: Jesus's Ministry Around Galilee**  
**Sessions 1-12**

Locate a map that highlights the region of Galilee in the first century, including key places where Jesus traveled and ministered in Matthew 1-13.

## Pack Item 2

**Poster: Outline of Matthew 1-13**  
**Sessions 1-12**

Refer to page 9 of the DDG to create a poster that outlines Matthew 1-13.

## Pack Item 3

**Poster: Jesus's Mission**  
**Sessions 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11**

Create a poster that describes Jesus's work and mission using "God the Son," Article II.B. from the *Baptist Faith and Message* (2000).

## Pack Item 4

**Poster: Key Verse: Matthew 4:18b-19**  
**Session 2**

Create a poster with the text of Matthew 4:18b-19.

## Pack Item 5

**Poster: Key Verse: Matthew 9:12**  
**Session 8**

Create a poster with the text of Matthew 9:12.

## Pack Item 6

**Poster: Prophecies Fulfilled by Jesus**  
**Sessions 10-12**

Use a Bible dictionary or other resource, to create a poster that identifies the prophecies Jesus fulfilled in Matthew's Gospel. Include the event, the Old Testament prophetic reference, and the New Testament fulfillment reference.



EVENT IN JESUS'S LIFE	OLD-TESTAMENT REFERENCE	FULFILLMENT IN MATTHEW
Virgin birth	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:23, 23:23
Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 24:6
Refugee years in Egypt	Hosea 11:3	Matthew 23:15
Baptized in Nazareth	Isaiah 11:1	Matthew 2:23
Preaching in Galilee	Isaiah 9:1-2	Matthew 4:23-25
Healing ministry	Isaiah 53:4	Matthew 8:16-17
Avoiding unwelcome attention	Isaiah 42:1-4	Matthew 12:16-21
Teaching in parables	Psalms 78:2	Matthew 13:34-35

LEADER PACK SAMPLE POSTER

## Pack Item 7

**Poster: Kingdom Parables in Matthew 13**  
**Session 12**

Use a Bible dictionary or other resource, to create a poster that explains Jesus's parables in Matthew 13. Note the name of the parable, the references, and the truth Jesus was teaching for each story.



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## Pack Item 8

### Handout: Matthew Time Line Sessions 1-12

Use a study Bible to create a time line of the major people and events related to Matthew's Gospel. Include both biblical and non-biblical historical references for context.

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## Pack Item 9

### Handout: Praying Scripture in Matthew's Gospel Sessions 1-12

Create a handout to help adults pray through key Scriptures in Matthew's Gospel. Focus on the following questions: *What does this passage teach me about God and His character? How should I respond to what He is showing me about Himself?*

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## Pack Item 10

### Handout: Messianic Prophecies Session 3

Using a study Bible, Bible dictionary, or other resource, create a handout that highlights the messianic prophecies fulfilled in the birth narratives of Matthew 1-2 and Luke 2-3.

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## Pack Item 11

### Handout: The Sermon on the Mount Sessions 4-6

Use a commentary, Bible handbook, or other source to create a handout that describes the divisions and key points of Jesus's sermon in Matthew 5-7.

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## Pack Item 12

### Handout: Miracles in Matthew 8-9 Sessions 7-8

Using a study Bible, Bible dictionary, or other resource, create a chart that highlights the miracles Jesus performed in Matthew 8-9. Note the miracle and its reference.

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## Pack Item 13

### Handout: The Disciples in History Session 9

Using a study Bible, Bible dictionary, or other resource, create a handout that provides biographical information on Jesus's twelve disciples, including their ministry after Jesus returned to heaven.

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## Pack Item 14

### Handout: Legalism Worksheet Session 11

Create a two-column chart for an application activity. Label one column "How People Try to Earn Salvation" and the other column "The Biblical Response to those Actions." Challenge adults to list ways people rely on good works, along with biblical truths that refute those efforts.

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## COMING NEXT QUARTER



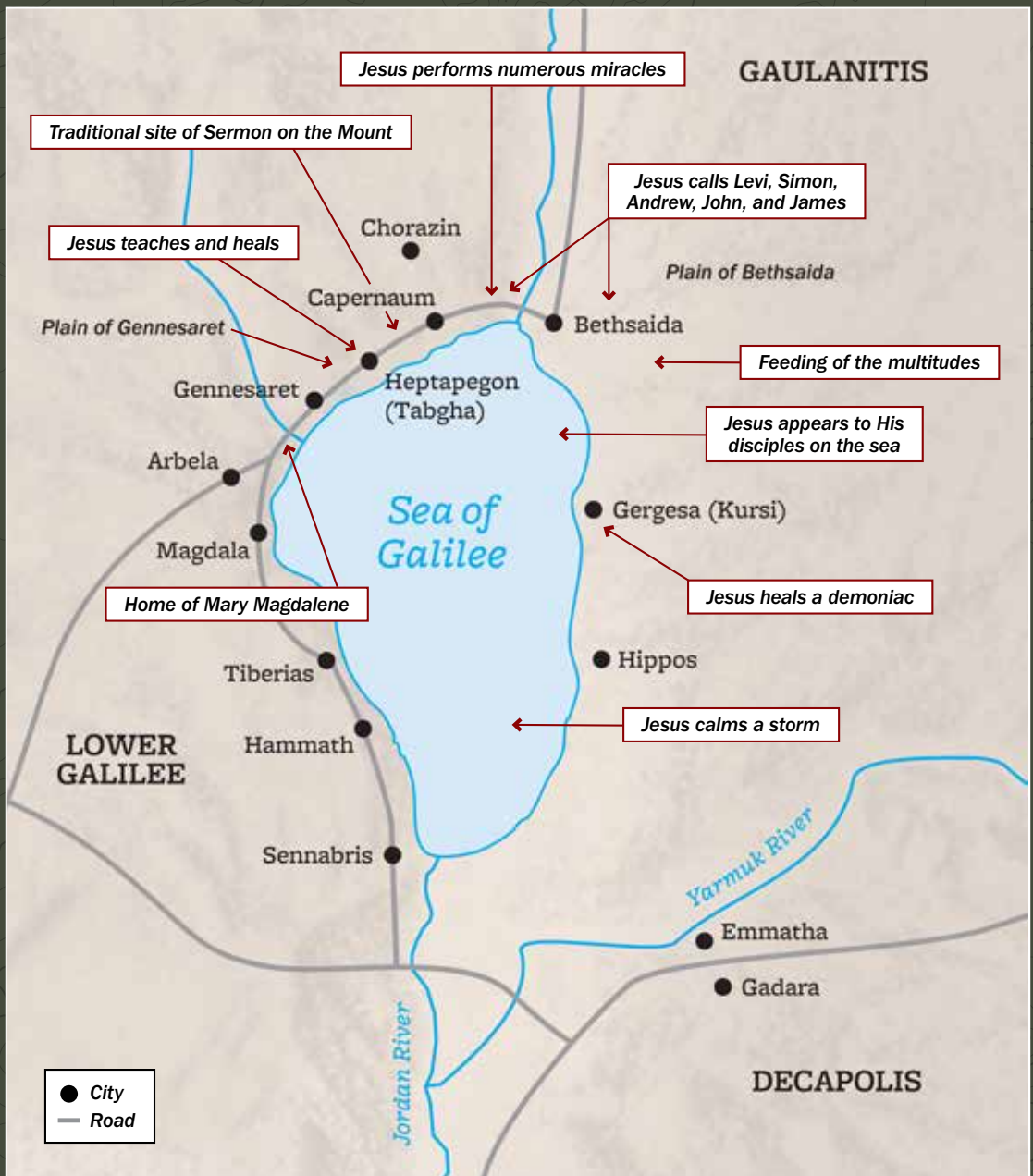
### *Matthew 14–28*

- Session 1: **Courage** (Matthew 14:22-33)
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- Session 2: **Real Devotion** (Matthew 15:1-11,16-20)
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- Session 3: **Following Jesus** (Matthew 16:13-26)
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- Session 4: **Glory** (Matthew 17:1-13)
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- Session 5: **Forgiveness** (Matthew 18:21-35)
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- Session 6: **Our Task** (Matthew 28:1-10,16-20)
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- Session 7: **Eternal Life** (Matthew 19:16-30)
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- Session 8: **Grace** (Matthew 20:1-16)
- 
- Session 9: **Authority** (Matthew 21:23-32)
- 
- Session 10: **Honor** (Matthew 22:15-22,34-40)
- 
- Session 11: **Alert** (Matthew 24:36-51)
- 
- Session 12: **Active Faith** (Matthew 25:31-46)
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- Session 13: **Our Atonement** (Matthew 26:17-30)
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- Session 14: **Our Savior** (Matthew 27:27-31,45-54)
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# *Explore*

“You will seek me and find me when you search for me  
with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:13

## JESUS'S MINISTRY AROUND GALILEE





## MATTHEW 1-13

When high school and college students are interested in a certain career path, they often shadow an expert in that field for a day or two. It gives them a better feel for the job's requirements and a clearer understanding of what will be expected. They learn what to do by watching the example of one who's walked that path already. For Christ followers, we have no greater example than what we see in the life of Jesus. By listening to His words and watching His actions, we learn the do's and don'ts of living out our faith. As you study Matthew 1–13, you'll get a firsthand account of what it's like to walk with Jesus each day—and learn what it means to become a citizen of God's kingdom.

**Lifeway** adults

[goexplorethebible.com](http://goexplorethebible.com)

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