

## **Children's Sermon for Feb 16** (based on Mt 5:21-37)

**Items needed:** houseplant pot with dirt in it, some plant that you don't want, scissors.

Beforehand, put the plant in the pot with the dirt. After kids come up, ask them if they know what a "weed" is. A weed is some plant that you don't want to grow. Like when a dandelion plant grows, where people are trying to grow grass for their lawn. Bring out your plant--let's pretend that this plant is a weed, growing in your grass, in your lawn. What could you do about this weed? You could come along with a lawnmower, and cut some of the weed down. Did anybody bring a lawnmower to church with them today? No? Well then, let's use these scissors to be our pretend lawnmower, to come along and cut back some of this weed. (Use scissors to cut off a piece off the top of the plant.) But if you do cut off a piece of a weed, what happens then? It grows back again! (Hold cut off piece back at place on plant where you had removed it.) Sometimes, the weed even grows bigger, after you cut it back! There's something else you can do, if there is a weed. You can grab the whole thing with your hand (do so,) and pull the whole thing out(do so.) In today's Bible reading, Jesus talks about certain bad things, like hurting other people, or lying. It is wrong, to hurt others, or to tell lies. But those bad things are like the top of the weed (hold up piece of plant you cut with scissors.) Jesus doesn't just want to get rid of the top of the weed. He wants to pull out the whole plant! So, today, we can ask Jesus to pull the weeds out of our heart--weeds like cruelty, and dishonesty.

By Rev. Dave Quinn