



Week of March 24, 2019

Luke 13:1-9

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

² He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?"

³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.

⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them-- do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?"

⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

⁶ Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none.

⁷ So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?'

⁸ He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it.

⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

Gathering questions:

- A. Talk about a significant time in your life when you seized a fleeting opportunity.
- B. A pastor said, "Hope that exists in the past is called regret." If you could have an opportunity back (one that you had missed), what would it be? (Missed investment opportunities are excluded from this question.)

Bible Study Questions:

1. How literal is your understanding of the Bible?
2. Jesus says twice, "unless you repent." What is your understanding of what it means to "repent"?
3. The discussion of the tragedies implies the common belief that tragedy happens to bad people. Do you believe sin is punished in this life? If so, how? Have you ever felt that God was punishing you?
4. What is the "manure" that God spreads to help you be fruitful?
5. We are not given an ultimate end to the story. What do you think happens in a year? If there is no fruit, would the tree be cut down?
6. The various appearances of fig trees in the Bible usually focus on whether the tree is producing fruit. What does Godly fruitfulness look like in your life?
7. If a fig tree has no fruit, no one can eat from it. What are the different types of "hunger" that you see in people, and how can you be better prepared to "feed" them?

Closing prayer: Particularly ask for prayers about situations where a person can seize a present opportunity.