

## **Seedling Group Questions for the week of March 24 – The Third Sunday in Lent**

The sermon for March 24, “Time to Bear Fruit,” can be found at [www.saidanotherway.org](http://www.saidanotherway.org)

### **Questions for opening up**

Which drink or food replenishes you most when you are thirsty, hungry, or tired?

Share an experience from your life when you felt that you grew a lot.

### **Read Isaiah 55:1-9**

The prophet announces that God’s offer of wine, milk, and rich food are “without price.” What is the significance of that?

What does it mean in a spiritual sense to “eat what is good”?

According to verse 5, what will be one result of Israel’s listening to God and returning to him? Where do you see examples of this happening today?

“‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways,’ says the Lord.” What does that mean? What message does Isaiah intend it to mean in this specific instance?

### **Read Luke 13:1-9**

What kind of mindset does Jesus seem to be challenging in his response to the people who ask him about the recent tragedy of the murdered Galileans? Is this a common mindset to encounter these days?

Where is the grace in this passage? Where have you encountered this in your life?

What kinds of things does God give us for spiritual growth? In other words, what is in God’s “manure”?

### **Putting things together**

How do you typically interpret or explain tragic events to yourself? To a child?

Pastor Phillip says, *“As harsh as it may seem to our ears, Jesus says that reflecting on these tragedies [which are brought up] is a chance to think about our own limited lifespans—regardless of their specific length—and how none of us has forever for growing and enjoying the bounty of God’s kingdom.”* How often do world events lead you to self-reflection? Does that reflection lead you to grow and bear any fruit? Explain.

In what ways does forgiveness grant new life?

### **Making it personal**

Which fruit do you stand to bear more of?

What aspect of your faith journey feels like particularly rich fertilizer at the moment? Why?

**Isaiah 55:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup>See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup>Seek the Lord while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;

<sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

**Luke 13:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.<sup>2</sup>[Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?"<sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>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? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

<sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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?' <sup>8</sup>He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"