



September 21-22  
“The Barren Fig Tree”  
Luke 13:1-9

Home Group discussion questions are written by Pastor Art Hunt.  
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**Connect:** Did anyone in the group come to Christ as an older teen or adult? If so, one or more of you talk about the series of circumstances that lead you to repentance and faith in Christ. How did those experience move you toward repentance? Was there a key person that helped you? What did repentance look like? What immediate changes did that repentance bring?

**1. Read Luke 13:1-5, the prologue**

- Jesus is asked to comment on two events; Pilate’s killing of several Galileans who had probably been engaged in anti-state activities, and eighteen deaths caused by the accidental collapse of a tower. In general, what point(s) does Jesus make?
- What truths then are Jesus’ comments trying to help His listeners consider?
- What is Jesus saying about judgment in this passage?
- As a group, have someone write down the short responses to the group task that follows: *Provide words or phrases that describe what repentance is and the inner and outer results of repentance.* When finished, evaluate each of the phrases to determine its biblical support.
- After this task discuss: What then is most central to biblical repentance?
- Do Jesus comments in 13:1-5 challenge your portrait of Jesus? Why or why not?

**2. Read Luke 13:6-9, the parable**

- Some suggest that the fig tree represents Israel which had failed, by and large, to repent and turn to Jesus. But certainly, the reader can broaden the meaning to include all who fail to demonstrate repentance, though they have been exposed to the truth.
- Someone read 2 Peter 3:9 to the group. How do verses 8 and 9 relate to this passage and what do they tell us about God’s attitude toward those who have not placed their faith in Christ?
- If believers are in some ways, “caretakers” of God’s vineyard, how do we “fertilize” the “fig trees” in our lives? What does it look like to “feed” those who need to hear the gospel?
- Is there ever a time when a believer may abandon them to their fate or cut them out of our lives? Why or why not?

**3. Application.**

- What is your emotional reaction to this parable?

- What course(s) of action do you think Jesus might have expected from those who were originally listening?
- What course(s) of action does this parable suggest today?

## Home Group Leader Notes

**Do not hand out these notes to your group members.**

- Remember that you can ask all of the questions or none! You may add questions of your own. The purpose is for the group to come to grips with the major teaching of the passage and how to apply it to their lives.
- In the section of questions covering Luke 13:1-5, the group is asked to generate a list concerning “repentance.” Here is the NIV Commentary’s comments on repentance: “Luke 13:1-5 underscores the importance of considering our status before God. We must repent and turn to him, or we will perish. In the context of this Gospel, such turning involves responding to Jesus and His teaching (Luke 6:47-49). Repentance is not (simply) an emotion or a mere mental assent to a proposition. It is a reorientation to a new life. To repent is not merely to regret things we have done or apologize for them or recognize a wrong has been committed. To repent is to agree that a change of direction is required and then to respond accordingly. This is why John the Baptist speaks of producing the fruit of repentance (Luke 3:8). That is also why Paul could speak of repentance and the good works they produce in the same breath (Acts 26:20)”