

**02 – A Grace period**  
**Luke 13: 6-9**

**Step 1: Link (hard truths )**

We are reading the story of Jesus in the book of Luke. We are reading a part of the story that is hard to listen to. Jesus is warning us about hell and God's judgment.

Last time we started reading chapter 13. In the story last week, a group of people were killed. Which group of people were killed - ? ( . . . worshippers) Were they killed because they were very bad people - ? ( . . . no) We learned last week that bad things do not happen because people are bad. Bad things happen for God's own mysterious reasons.

**Step 2: Introduction**

In last week's story, Jesus gave the same warning twice. Let's look at chapter 13 verses 3 and 5. What is Jesus' warning - ? ( . . . unless you repent, change your hearts and lives<sup>1</sup>, you will all be destroyed too!) This is a very hard warning! Today's story is about a tree. This story tells us, "Don't wait! The time is short!"

**Step 3: Key Questions**

- **Why was the tree in danger?** (v.7 it didn't have fruit, figs)
- **How much time did the tree have?** (v.9 one more year, season)

Step 4: Read **Luke 13: 6-9**

**Step 5: Answer the questions**

**Step 6: Talk about it**

Why did the owner plant the fig tree - ? ( . . . to get figs!) Why did God create you and me - ? ( . . . they might not know) The whole Bible teaches that God created us to have a relationship with us. To love us! The right relationship with God is that we worship Him.

What is worship? Worship is saying the truth about each other. We are not perfect, we think and do bad things, we need God's forgiveness. God

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<sup>1</sup> The most important way to change your hearts and lives is to change your mind about who Jesus is, and believe the truth that is in Jesus.

is perfect and good and wonderful. We sing praises to Him. We talk to Him in prayer. We listen to His word to us, the Bible.

Do you ever go to a sports game? Like baseball or soccer - ? (...) Do you know how excited the people get? How they cheer when their team gets points? That is my image of worship<sup>2</sup>. We don't see that kind of worship on this earth. But I think we will see that kind of worship in the next world. Because God is more beautiful and more exciting than any sports game!

The fig tree had one more year to make figs. As for us, how much more time do we have to worship the true and living God?

**Do you have any questions or comments?**

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<sup>2</sup> That is actually my, Linda Karner's, image of worship, what is could and should be – all of us praising God excitedly together like fans in a stadium. You may have your own image...