

A large, gnarled, leafless tree stands in a dry, grassy field under a blue sky. The tree's trunk is thick and twisted, with many smaller, bare branches extending outwards. The ground is covered in dry, yellowish-brown grass, and the background shows rolling hills with sparse vegetation.

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

LIFE STORY

THE STORY OF THE
CONTRADICTION TREE

Luke 12:54-13:9

Luke 12:54–13:9(ESV)

54He also said to the crowds,
“When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, ‘A shower is coming.’ And so it happens.

55And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens.

56You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

57“And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right?

58As you go with your accuser before the magistrate, make an effort to settle with him on the way, lest he drag you to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer put you in prison.

59I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the very last penny.”

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

2And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way?

3No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

4Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem?

5No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

6And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none.

7And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’

8And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure.

9Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’ ”

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

What do you notice in this story?
What details stand out to you?

Why is it important to include Luke 12:56-13:5
as we explore the parable in 13:6-9?

What is the man who planted the fig tree
looking for?

How long has he been looking?



**"The fruit that God is looking for is a life
that recognizes Jesus for who he is."**

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Why do you think the Holy Spirit intended
this story to be in Scripture?

Jesus asked, "...why do you not know how
to interpret the present time?" What is
he looking for from us?

Jesus asked, "why do you not judge for
yourselves what is right?" What do you
think he is hoping for in his people?

Look at 13:1-5. What does it mean to
repent?

What is sort of fruit that Jesus wants to see?





WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT ME?

Can you identify "the present time"? What does this discernment look like?

Are you able to judge what is right? What can this look like for you?

Are there sins that you need to repent of?

WHAT CAN I DO THIS WEEK?

READ Luke 3:13-14. What sort of action can you take that would demonstrate your desire to obey Christ?

What is the sort of actions that demonstrate fruit that is in keeping with repentance?

How will you recognize Jesus in this present time?

Take time this week to read John 15:1-11. Jesus describes the way that we must remain in him if we ever hope to live for God and accomplish anything for him. Reflect on the ways that you might continue to abide in Christ.

PRAYER

How can the group be in prayer for your needs or concerns this week?

Is there anything that you would like to thank God for from the previous week?