

Children and family talk for 20th March 2022

Good morning, everyone!

Have you been out this week and seen all the blossom on the trees? It is really starting to feel like the earth is waking up now from its winter sleep, although there are still bare trees as I look out of my window. In today's bible passage Jesus tells us a story about a tree, but not just any tree, it's a fruit tree, in fact it's a fig tree. Do you like figs? I do, and so it appears did Jesus and his disciples.

Let's read our bible verses together, from

Luke 13 verses 6-9.

The Useless Tree

⁶ Jesus told this story: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came looking for some fruit on the tree, but he found none. ⁷ So the man said to his servant who took care of his vineyard, 'I have been looking for fruit on this tree for three years, but I never find any. Cut it down! Why should it waste the ground?' ⁸ But the servant answered, 'Master, let the tree have one more year to produce fruit. Let me dig up the dirt around it and put on some fertilizer. ⁹ Maybe the tree will produce fruit next year. If the tree still doesn't produce fruit, then you can cut it down.'"

In my garden I have a tiny apple tree. It has been there since before we bought the house. I always think it is too small to give us many apples, and generally I am right, we don't get many. Perhaps you think I should chop it down and make room for something else?

But last year, it produced so many apples the branches were bending under the weight of them all. The tree had really surprised me! Now I don't know whether I had done anything different, maybe it was because I had trimmed the plants around it to give it more light, or maybe it was because the weather was just what it needed last year. I really don't know. But what I do know is that if I had cut the tree down and got rid of it, I wouldn't have had all the juicy apples we had last year.

In our bible story today, Jesus is saying something similar, the man who owned the fig tree wanted to get rid of it, but the servant wanted to give it another chance to produce fruit. Jesus wants us to know that God will give us the chances we need to turn to God. It's up to us to make the right choices and follow Jesus, but we are given plenty of chances to do that, if you haven't made that decision yet, don't leave it – turn to God now. All you need to do is admit you may have done wrong in the past, to say sorry, and to believe in God.

Sounds easy doesn't it?

Let's talk to God now;

When we have wasted time on silly things:

Sorry Lord, give us another chance.

When we have not cared for our family or friends:

Sorry Lord, give us another chance.

When we have judged others wrongly:

Sorry Lord, give us another chance.

As we go out into the world today,
God, help us to love others and ourselves;
help us to grow and change
and be the best we can be.

Amen.

Let's finish by saying the grace together:

And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out your hands as if receiving a present)

The Love of God (Cross your hands over your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (hold hands together)

Be with us all, now and for evermore, Amen. (Bring thumbs together).

Here is a link for a song from Doug Horley; Nothings too big:

https://youtu.be/Yopo6DvV9Z8?list=PLGOIQuX191CahA0rWCCy2VUzKV_rrFG_w

And here is the link for the activity page: [activity-sheet-20-march-2022.pdf \(rootsontheweb.com\)](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/activity-sheet-20-march-2022.pdf)