



Week 3
20 - 26 March 2022

**SMALL GROUP WEEKLY
DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL**

LENT & HOLY WEEK



Daily Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation
Weekly worship song, reflection and small group questions

Week 3 – 20 March



REPENT OR PERISH

First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Isaiah 55:1-9	Psalm 63:1-8	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9



Praise and Worship: Oh God of second chances
<https://youtu.be/pFwinAZAVG8>

Luke 13:1-9

New International Version – UK Repent or perish

13 Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ² Jesus answered, 'Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? ³ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them – do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.' ⁶ Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig-tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. ⁷ So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, "For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig-tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?"' ⁸ "Sir," the man replied, "leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig round it and fertilise it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down."

Reflection the Scripture by: REV KAMOGELO MONOAMETSI

An American physician stated that he had known a hundred or more instances, in his practice, of people who, in prospect of death, had been hopefully converted, but had afterwards recovered. Of all these he only knew of three who devoted themselves to the service of Christ when they got well. An English doctor once told that he had known three hundred sick people profess repentance and faith when they thought they were dying, but who afterwards recovered. Only ten of these gave evidence of reality by a change of life.

Luke's invitation to a journey of second chances and repentance is indicative of God's prevailing Grace. It does consider the ongoing human disasters, personal destruction, interference with spiritual intuition which ultimately result to broken relationship with God. Such brokenness leads to distorted relationship with creation and other fellow human beings; thus, repentance is necessary and indispensable, in order to restore and reconcile that which is broken. The word Repentance is derived from a Greek *metanoia* meaning to "turn around", turning our lives towards Christ, changing of behaviour, conduct, and actions that are not reflecting God's image and holiness.

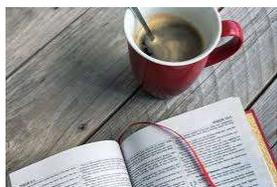
Employed by Luke as a conclusion to the discourse that had begun in chapter 12:2, reiterates the theme of impending judgment. Israel has only a short period left for repentance. He saw that his nation is heading for disaster. He would have no part with the insurrectionists. He opposed direct action not only because it would obviously be a blood bath of futility, but because there was no guarantee that insurrectionists leaders or Caiphaz would treat Israel more nobly than Rome.

The beauty of walking our faith journey with God encapsulated in the spiritual realization that God is always waiting to receive us, to forgive us, to give another opportunity to start afresh, to accompany us in the journey of renewal and recreation. In spite of the destructive life we are living, and the sinful nature that underpins our being, and informs our actions, God of grace and mercy is always willing and waiting to start with us again. Notably, God's second chances are always preceded by repentance.



Small Group Questions:

1. Which areas of your life needs repentance?
2. How many times have you experienced second chances from God and how have you utilized them?
3. Have you thought of giving other people in your life a second chance? Be it in relationships, work, family or even in church?



Daily Bible Reading, Memory Verse and Prayer:

MONDAY, March 21: Psalm 39; Jeremiah 11:1-17; Romans 2:1-11

Memory Verse: "Show me, Lord, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is." (Psalm 39:4)

Prayer: God of life you blessed us with the opportunity to live life to the fullest, life centered on Christ. We have failed to honor this gift of life. We repent from our ignorance and negligence. **Amen**

TUESDAY, March 22, 2022: Psalm 39; Ezekiel 17:1-10; Romans 2:12-16

Memory Verse: "It has been planted, but will it thrive? Will it not wither completely when the east wind strikes it—wither away in the plot where it grew?" (Ezekiel 17:10)

Prayer: God of power and strength we pray your blessing upon each person who is faced with the heavy blowing winds of this life. May they not wither because of the challenges. **Amen**

WEDNESDAY, March 23, 2022: Psalm 39; Numbers 13:17-27; Luke 13:18-21

Memory Verse: “Then Jesus asked, ‘What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? ¹⁹ It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches.” (Luke 13: 18)

Prayer: Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth send your holy spirit upon us to remind us of our role in our kingdom. We are the agents of your kingdom, a sign pointing others to the kingdom living. **Amen**

THURSDAY, March 24, 2022: Psalm 32; Joshua 4:1-13; 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:5

Memory Verse: “Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.” (2 Co 4: 16)

Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ we are hard pressed in all areas of our lives, give us the ability to know your renewed strength in the midst of pressing challenges and suffering.

FRIDAY, March 25, 2022: Psalm 32; Joshua 4:14-24; 2 Corinthians 5:6-15

Memory Verse: “For we live by faith, not by sight”. (2 Cor 5: 7)

Prayer: Holy Trinity give us the knowledge to know the power of living life of faith, life build on the foundation of belief in unseen things. **Amen**

SATURDAY, March 26, 2022: Psalm 32; Exodus 32:7-14; Luke 15:1-10

Memory Verse: “But Moses sought the favour of the Lord his God. ‘Lord,’ he said, ‘why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand’” (Exodus 32: 11)

Prayer: God of forgiveness and mercy, forgive our ignorance and selfishness. We have angered you through our actions by damaging ourselves, others and your creation. **Amen**



It is important for parents to take time to lead the conversations of family time and to be honest with their children in these conversations.

BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN’S PASTOR
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Sunday 20th March 2022

Pray daily: Set up family time for prayer and devotions and stick to this arrangement. All devotions should always begin by with a prayer. Ask a family member to pray or one of the children.

Scripture Reading: Luke 13:1-9

Play: Form a circle. One child will pass an apple to the right around the circle. Another child will pass an orange to the left around the circle. The key to this game is that kids can’t pass the fruit with their hands. Kids can use their feet, elbows, or knees to pass the fruit. If someone drops the fruit or it touches the ground, the child must close his/her eyes to continue playing. Play continues until only one person with his or her eyes open remains.

In this story Jesus is telling people they need to say sorry. He also tells the parable of the fig tree. (*Ask if everyone knows what a parable means?*) We have a story that Jesus tells us where we see two men having a conversation about a fig tree. The one is saying that you shouldn’t waste time and energy on a tree that doesn’t produce fruit. The second man is saying that we need to give the tree the right food and water, and time to grow. He also says if the tree does not give fruit in a year then you can cut it down.

- How do things grow?
- Is it easy to make things grow or do you need to put work into making things grow?
- Is it only plants that can grow? (*People can grow, not just physically but spiritually and in kindness and goodness too*)
- Do you have any ideas on how people can grow?
- Does Jesus help us grow? How?