



DiscoverChurch  
LIFE GROUPS

**March 2018 Curriculum**

# **Parables: Stories with a Punch**

## **The Sin – Suffering Connection**

### **Luke13:1-8**

**Ice Breaker:** Do you like gardening and yardwork? Why or why not?

**Read: Luke 13:1-8**

The question of why bad things happen to people is almost as old as humanity. Theologically, the overall answer to that question is that bad things happen because of the brokenness of creation and the presence of sin and evil in this world. That is true. We get into trouble when we always try to assign personal responsibility. In other words, that person got cancer because of their own personal sin, or this person died because he wasn't living a godly life, or if that person had faith they would be healed. That kind of thinking is blaming the victim. The connection is much more complicated than a direct one to one parallel. In reality, creation is sick with sin and most of the things that are wrong, are the symptoms of the disease of sin.

#### **Notes:**

- The fig tree was used metaphorically for the nation of Israel. Hosea 9:10
- The fig tree is one of oldest fruit trees.
- If a fig is pick too early it can burn the mouth.
- Jesus mentions two incidents. First, pilgrims from Galilee were slain by Romans when they were slaughtering their sacrifices for the temple. Second, the collapse of a tower in Jerusalem. Both incidents are only mentioned in the Gospels.
- This parable is part of a larger teaching that could be called parables of the kingdom. They include: the birds of the air and the grass of the field, the servants who keep their lamps burning and the wise & faithful manager.
- The story immediately following this final parable is the one where Jesus heals a handicapped woman on the Sabbath.

## **Questions:**

1. How would you answer the question why do bad things happen to good people?
2. What do you think is the connection between sin and suffering? [Believe](#)
3. How has faith helped you through a difficult time in your life?
4. How do you pray after you have experienced a trauma?
5. How can we pray for those individuals who are suffering?

## **Prayer:**

Pray for those who are sick in our congregation, Pray for those individual who are experienced a tragedy. Pray for people who feel shame. Pray for those who are in prison and those who ministers to them. . Personal prayer request

## **Additional Resources**

This YouTube is about fig trees

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vYxLX\\_emnk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vYxLX_emnk)

Here is a song for Worship by Fernando Ortega

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEpcJv8HYr4>