



**Mustard Seed Children's Summary for February 10, 2008  
Released on February 6, 2008**

**"Turn to God"**

**MEMORY VERSE:**

**"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3)**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT: Luke 13:1-9**

**1** There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

**2** And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things?

**3** I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

**4** Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem?

**5** I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

**6** He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none.

**7** Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?

**8** And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it:

**9** And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.

**THE OBJECT IN VIEW:**

Teach that in order to be saved, those who think they do not need Jesus must change their minds about Him and God's way of salvation.

**TRUTHS TO STRESS:**

1. We must believe what the Bible says about who Jesus is and what He has done for us.
2. We must believe we have sin that has to be taken away.
3. We must believe eternal life is God's gift and not something we can earn by being good.

**PLANNING LESSON AIDS:**

For Helping to Remember, each student will need half a sheet of white art paper and crayons, or colored pencils. Make a copy of the word search for each student.

**LESSON BACKGROUND:**

Chapter 13 in Luke's gospel deals with the topic of repentance. Repentance must be presence and, in fact, is necessary for salvation. However, repentance alone will not save us. To repent means that we change our minds about sin, and this change brings about a change in our actions, as well.

Scripture lets us know that the Word of God produces repentance is one's life (Romans 2:4). Repentance begins with a change in the way we think about sin that results in a godly sorrow for all the shortcomings in our lives and for the bad that we have done.

## **TEACHER'S NOTES / TELLING THE LESSON:**

Consider the following as you prepare your lesson for your students:

### **1. What does it mean to repent?**

Repentance is a very important theme seen throughout the Bible. Throughout the prophets (Isaiah 55:7, Jeremiah 18:8, Ezekiel 14:6) in the Old Testament to John the Baptist (Matthew 3:8), our Lord Jesus Christ (Mark 1:15) and the apostles (Acts 2:38) in the New Testament, we see that repentance is a very important part of God's requirements for man. People everywhere are urged to change their mind about sin.

Repentance is a decision to act differently in the future than one has done in the past. To repent of sin is to make up one's mind to stop the sin, turn away from the sin and turn to God. It means to be sorry for what you have done in your life, to change how you think about these wrongdoings, and to turn from sin and turn to God by trusting in Jesus to save us.

### **2. What real life examples did Jesus use to illustrate His point about repentance?"**

In this passage, there were two incidents that Jesus used to illustrate the point about repentance. In the first incident, the people described to Jesus how Pilate had done some very bad things to some of the Jews worshiping in Galilee. Jesus made the point to his listeners that these Galileans suffered the things that they did but were probably no worst sinners than others. Unless his listeners repented (changed and turned to God), they would also perish like the Galileans.

Another incident was the collapse of the tower of Siloam. In this accident, the tower fell on eighteen people and killed them. This accident did not happen to these people because they were worse than others living in Jerusalem, but Jesus told his listeners that they needed to repent or something sad would also happen to them.

### **3. Describe the parable of the fig tree.**

In this parable, a certain landowner had a vineyard and had a fig tree planted in it. For three years, the owner came looking for figs on the tree but did not find any. The owner was disappointed that the tree had not produced any fruit for the three years, so he decided to have it cut down. The dresser of the vineyard (or gardener) thought that the owner should give the tree one more year to produce fruit. In that year, the gardener would personally take care of tree and give it every opportunity to bear the fruit that it should. If after that year, it still did not produce fruit, it would be cut down.

This parable illustrates the Lord's patience with us. We are given every opportunity to repent and to become what we should be. However, if we do not repent, we will surely perish.

### **4. Who, according to the Bible, should repent?**

The Bible says that everyone has sins that need to be taken away. Therefore, we all need to repent. The Bible says that God has commanded that "all men everywhere" repent (Acts 17:30).

Because we all are sinful, God send Jesus into the world to be our Savior. Jesus took all the punishment for our wrong doings when He died on the cross. It is now up to us to change our minds and believe what He did and thank Him. We should then turn to God and trust in His saving work through Jesus Christ.

### **5. What will happen to those who do not repent?**

Those who do not repent will perish or experience the sadness of being kept away from God and heaven. From the examples given in this 13<sup>th</sup> chapter of Luke, we are urged not to assume that the things that happen to others are just because they deserve it. Because of our sin, everyone – all of us – are deserving of God's judgment. The only way to avoid being separated from God is to repent.

Those who choose not to repent, who reject the teachings of Jesus and choose to continue in their sin, will die in their sin and apart from God. Those who do not repent will die without God and without any hope of living eternally with God in heaven.

**TELLING HOW TO LIVE:**

Discuss and explain that in order to be born again, we need to change the way that we think about God, Jesus, ourselves and sin. Unless we change our minds and turn to God, we will be kept away from God and heaven. We must believe what the Word of God says in order to be saved.

Maybe you have been thinking, "I am good most of the time. I am nice to others. I go to Sunday School. I am good enough for God to let me into heaven." These are good things, but if this is your attitude, you need to understand that even you need to repent. Believe what the Bible says about you and about Jesus, and then turn away from sin and turn to Jesus.

Repentance is a lesson needed by everyone. The need to repent is not just for people who are not Christians. Even Christians, if and when we do wrong, must repent.

**HELPING TO REMEMBER (ACTIVITIES):**

Use the following activities, or create your own, to emphasize the key points of the lesson: Distribute the white art paper. Have the students create a billboard. It should read "CHANGE YOUR MIND" and display a cross and an empty tomb or a Bible, or any other image that will remind them and others of the gospel and salvation. Then they can decorate their billboard.

Repeat the memory verse and let each child practice saying the verse. A word search for this week's lesson is included at the end of this summary with key words from the lesson.

**EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:**

"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3)  
Someone had brought news to Jesus that Pilate had murdered certain worshipers. Jesus used the occasion to emphasize something about salvation. To perish means that something bad happens; it is the sad experience of being kept away from God and heaven.

The news that Jesus received let Him know that something sad had happened. His response in Luke 13:3 meant that if people do not change their minds and believe they need Him to take away their sins, something sad will happen to them also. They will not be allowed to live in heaven with God.

**ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:**

Next week's lesson is "Be Unselfish" from Luke 14:1, 7-14 and focuses on being humble, unselfish, and considerate of others.

**Lesson Summarized By:**

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**WORD SEARCH: Turn to God Luke 13:1-9**

Find each of the following words.

DISCIPLES

VINEYARD

PARABLE

JESUS

PERISH

SINNERS

SAVED

MIND

REPENT

CHANGE

FIG TREE

SALVATION

TURN

REPENTANCE

JERUSALEM

FRUIT

L E A U E E G R Y D A L I A D E U N A P P I R T  
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**WORD SEARCH SOLUTION: Turn to God (Luke 13:1-9)**

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