

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, September 21, 2008

Passage: Luke 13:1-9

Memory Passage: Isaiah 55:6-7

**TODAY:** *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 13:1-3.** What concern did the people bring to Jesus? What can you learn about the background of this event (Acts 5:37; also anything you can find on the internet)?
- (b) What do you think was the chief objection of the people? Why were Pilate's actions especially offensive?
- (c) What common idea was Jesus confronting in verse 2 (Acts 28:4; John 9:2)? Do bad things only happen to bad people?
- (d) What is true about all people (Romans 3:10; Romans 3:23)? What do all deserve (Romans 6:23)? What does God give us every day (Lamentations 3:22-23)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 13:1-3 and talk about why bad things happen to bad people. Should we be surprised when these kinds of things happen? What should surprise us? How would such an outlook on life affect our gratitude toward God? Spend some time thanking God for His mercy that He gives to us every day.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 13:4-6.** What additional situation does Jesus remind the crowd about? What is different about this situation from the temple incident in verses 1-3?
- (b) Does anything happen without God's knowledge of it (Luke 12:6-7)? What comfort should that give us?
- (c) Read Romans 2:4-5. What is it that God usually uses to bring us to repentance? How can even community disasters like the tower falling be a reminder of God's patience with those who survive?
- (d) What are we doing when we do not respond to such incidents by examining our own hearts and dealing with our own sin (Romans 2:5)? What should God's kindness lead us to?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 13:4-6 and Romans 2:4-5 and talk about God's goodness to you, especially His protection for you. How should this lead us to repentance? Pray for someone who does not know Christ that they would see God's mercy.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 13:7-9.** Who is the fig tree that Jesus is referring to? What similar agricultural picture did God use to describe Israel (Psalm 80:8-13; Isaiah 5:1-4; Jeremiah 2:21)?
- (b) What is the main concern of the master (God)? Is his concern justified? Is it reasonable?
- (c) What did Jesus tell his disciples in these verses: John 15:2, 4, 8, 16?
- (d) Read Matthew 21:19-21 and Mark 11:12-14. What does Jesus mean when he says, "Let no fruit ever grow on you again?" In Luke 20:16, what does he mean when he says he will "give the vineyard to others?" Who is he referring to?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 13:7-9 and John 15:1-8. Talk about the relationship between the vine and the branches. What does God desire from our lives? Pray that you might bear fruit in every good deed (Colossians 1:10).

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 13:7-9.** Describe the parable in your own words. What is unusual about the master's actions?
- (b) What does the master say *will* happen to the tree that does not bear any fruit? What warning did John the Baptist give about the urgency of repentance (Luke 3:9)?
- (c) What did the keeper recommend? How did the master's response show his mercy and patience? What does Paul tell us about God's patience in Romans 2:4-5? What does Peter say in 2 Peter 3:9?
- (d) What was one reason that God showed mercy and patience to Paul (1 Timothy 1:16)? Why has He shown it to you?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 13:7-9 and 1 Timothy 1:16. What does it mean to be an example (or pattern) of God's patience and mercy? Pray that you might be an example of His mercy this week.

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Exodus 34:6-9.** What two things did Moses learn about the nature and the person of God?
- (b) Also read Numbers 14:17-19. What are the two things emphasized about God here also? What did Moses pray for?
- (c) Did this mean that God would ignore sin? What did He tell Moses in Exodus 34:7? What did Moses acknowledge about Israel and what did he ask for (Exodus 34:8-9)?
- (d) What do these verses tell us about God's character (Psalm 86:15; Psalm 103:8; Psalm 103:17-18)? What is one reason for God's patience (2 Peter 3:9)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Exodus 34:6-9 and Psalm 103:17-18. Discuss the mercy and patience of God. What are some ways that God has been patient with you even this week? Praise God for His patience toward us all.

**DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

*Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* Read Luke 13:1-9. Why do bad things happen to bad people? How would you re-phrase that statement to better reflect a biblical view of man? How should God's patience with us bring us to repentance? What happens if we do not respond? Pray that some will respond to God's mercy and repent and follow Jesus.

**DATE:** September 21, 2008

**PASSAGE:** Luke 13:1-9

***The Heart of Repentance***

*“unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”*