

## Small Group Leaders' Guide | Sermon Questions, March 6<sup>th</sup> 2016

The Gospel in Story | The Fertilizer (Lk 13:1-9)

1. What was the focus of the crowd as they reflected on those that died horrible deaths? (what they must have done to deserve a death like that) What does Jesus want them to focus on instead in the face of death? (their own lives they still have to live, “repent”)
2. The call from Jesus is urgent, one that has been echoed throughout scripture, as Rich said. John the Baptist said it in Luke 3:8-9. What does good fruit look like according to John (3:10-14)? How would you summarize each of his 3 instructions? (Rich said, “build God’s kingdom, not your own”)
3. Are you bearing the fruit of repentance in your life?
4. If Jesus is the gardener and you are the fig tree, how has he had patience with you in order to breathe life into you that you might be fruitful? How has he softened your heart? What does that fruit look like?
5. When you find yourself facing significant obstacles in your life, do you tend to give them more time, in order to cultivate them (relationships at work, home, friends, etc)? Or do you chop them down and start over? How will you know if you’ve waited long enough?
6. Rich said that pain, anger, loss and other difficult things can harden our soil, but that we must surrender our own care to the gardener if we are to experience new life. What kinds of things are you holding on to that you should surrender to Him?
7. What are you, like the gardener in the parable, saturating your life with? Is it beneficial or harmful?
8. Rich closed his message by emphasizing that Jesus, even on the cross says “father, forgive them.” He is long suffering, generous, and kind; the good gardener. How does this picture of Christ affect the way you see him?