

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Luke 13:1-5

Connect the Right Dots



About this series: As we study Luke, we are walking through one of the most profound and transformative books in the entire Bible. In Luke, we see Jesus in new ways. We find a grace that reaches the outcast, a mercy that knows no bounds, a truth that challenges and restores, and a Savior who meets us where we are and calls us to follow Him.

Luke reveals the kingdom that comes through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. It shows what it means to follow a Savior who turns expectations upside down, calling the humble, healing the broken, and welcoming the outsider. Luke invites us to be a people who carry the light of Christ, proclaiming good news to a world right where we are.

Goals of this week's discussion/ study

In Luke 13:1-5, Jesus continues the conversation with crowd who was following him. In these verses, we are introduced to 2 current events: one an atrocity and the other an accident. Jesus uses these stories to invite his audience to look at their own lives and where they might need to repent.

Connections with the 7 Marks of a Jesus Follower

- Walk in the Word: Psalm 119 reminds us that when we walk in the statutes of the Lord, we will experience blessing.
- Live Free: Living lives of continual repentance brings a freedom in our relationship with God and with others.
- Healing not Hiding: As we learn to be a repentant community, we give each other permission to be open and authentic before God and each other.

Suggested starter questions

- Is the question, "Why do bad things happen to good people" a flawed question? Why or why not?
- If someone were to ask you, "why does God allow pain and suffering in the world," how would you answer?

Discussion

Read Luke 13:1-5

There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And he answered them, " Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

- Who is Jesus' primary audience?
- Why does the crowd bring up the story about the " mingled blood" to Jesus?
- How was the crowd connecting the dots from the tragedy to God's judgment?
- How does Jesus respond to their hypothesis?

Jesus' Response...

Read Luke 13:2

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."

- How is Jesus combating their faulty thinking?
- Do you tend to look at the things in your life that are going bad and wonder if God is punishing you?
- How do these 2 passages caution us from connecting the dots of tragedy and suffering to how " bad" people are?

Matthew 5:44-45

44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

John 9:1-3

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, " Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 " Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, " but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him."

- What do these 2 passages communicate about the nature of suffering?

I want to be clear – there are ways that God has set-up the world to work that have positive and negative effects. Sometimes suffering and tragedy are the result of choices.

Listen to Psalmist describe this reality..

Psalm 119:9-16

How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. 10 I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. 11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. 12 Praise be to you, Lord; teach me your decrees. 13 With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth. 14 I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. 15 I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. 16 I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.

- What is the Psalmist saying? How does one go about living in the grain of God's design?

On Sunday, Pastor Kyle said, "*The Bible is not about good people and bad people. The Bible is about all bad people and one good and perfect person who came to rescue the bad people.*"

- Is this true?

Jesus gives an example of a tower falling and killing 18 people. If you read between the lines, Jesus is saying, "We all deserve to be one of the 18. None of us are owed anything from God."

- How does seeing our lives as a gift help to reconcile tragedy and suffering in the world?

Jesus responds to both stories in the exact same way..

Luke 13:3

3 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.

Luke 13:5

5 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.

- How is Jesus' responses an invitation to look at our own sin when we see others who are suffering or when we hear about tragedies?
- Why would Jesus tell us to repent?



Applying The Text

- What aspect of the teaching was most compelling to your life?
- What is God asking you to do with you have learned?
- Who is someone who can help you be faithful and obedient?

Pray

Live Free – Pray for each other and spend some time in genuine repentance. Genuine repentance has 2 parts, and both are vital to transformation:

- 1) Acknowledge that you don't deserve a good life. We are not owed anything.
- 2) Receive the gift of life now and eternally from God as an act of grace.



