



Good Shepherd
Sermon-Based Study Guide
Luke 13:1-9 | August 9, 2026

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I. Introduction to this Study

In the middle of Luke, there is an interesting encounter where some people tell Jesus about Galileans who were killed by Pilate. They seem to want him to explain the meaning of the tragedy. Jesus assures them that those who suffered were not worse sinners than everyone else. He then mentions eighteen people killed when a tower collapsed and makes the same point.

Rather than allowing his listeners to speculate about the guilt of others, Jesus turns the question toward them: "Unless you repent, you too will all perish." He follows this warning with a parable about a barren fig tree that has been given one more season to produce fruit. Together, these stories confront us with the reality of judgment, the urgency of repentance, and the patience of God.

II. Connecting with One Another

What is one visible sign that someone is growing—not just getting older—in maturity or character?

III. Study the Text

Read Luke 13:1–5

- What two tragedies are described in these verses? How are they different from one another?
- Why do you think people are often tempted to connect someone else's suffering with that person's sin?
- Jesus shifts the focus away from those who suffered and toward the people listening. What does he want his listeners to examine about themselves?
- What does the word "unless" communicate about the necessity and urgency of repentance?

Read Luke 13:6-9

- What has the owner done for the fig tree, and what does he rightfully expect to find?



- What does the owner's repeated search for fruit reveal about his patience? Why does he eventually decide that the tree should be removed?
- What do the owner's warning and the gardener's request reveal about judgment and mercy?
- Jesus never tells us whether the tree eventually produces fruit. How does this unresolved ending turn the question toward his listeners?

Reflect and Respond

- When you hear about another person's failure or suffering, are you more inclined to examine that person or to examine yourself? Why?
- Is there a sin, behavior, relationship, or attitude about which you have repeatedly felt conviction but have continued to postpone change?
- What fruit of repentance might God be seeking in the way you treat your neighbors, handle money, use your words, respond to conflict, or care for people in need?
- What spiritual privileges and opportunities has God given you? What have they produced in your life?
- How might we, as a congregation, distinguish between visible religious activity and the deeper fruit God desires?

IV. Digging Deeper

Read Luke 3:7–14

- What does John the Baptist mean when he calls people to "produce fruit in keeping with repentance"?
- What specific changes does John identify as evidence of repentance?
- What is the difference between bearing fruit in order to earn God's acceptance and bearing fruit as the result of a heart that has turned toward God?
- Looking at Luke 3 and Luke 13 together, why is religious identity or outward appearance insufficient without the fruit of a changed life?

V. Prayer

Spend time in prayer together:

- Thank God for his patience and for the opportunities he gives us to turn toward him.
- Confess the ways you have focused on the faults of others while avoiding honest examination of your own life.
- Ask God to reveal any sin, attitude, or behavior from which you need to turn.
- Pray for repentance that comes not merely from fear of consequences but from genuine love for God and sorrow over sin.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to produce visible fruit in your relationships, priorities, generosity, integrity, and service.
- Pray that Good Shepherd will be a fruitful church whose shared life reflects the values of God's kingdom.

