

WEEK 4

SMALL GROUP GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God gives us second chances.

BIBLE

The Parable of the Fig Tree:
Luke 13:6–9; 2 Peter 3:8–9

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Few actors can complete a scene in the first take, so the director gives them plenty of chances to get it just right. This week, we'll hear Jesus share a story about giving a fig tree another chance to produce fruit. We don't need to worry when our actions feel like they should be on a blooper reel because **God gives us second chances.**

QUESTIONS

- **Who were the two characters in today's parable from Jesus?** *The landowner and the caretaker.*
- **Why did the landowner want to cut down the fig tree?** *It produced no fruit for the last three years.*
- **How did the caregiver convince the landowner not to cut it down?** *He promised to dig around it and fertilize it for another year.*
- **Read 2 Peter 3:9. Why is God being patient with us?** *God loves us and wants us to turn away from sin.*
- **Why are second chances important?**
- **Have you ever been given a second chance, like on a test? How do you feel when you are given a second chance?**
- **Is there anyone you know who needs a second chance? What can you do for them?**

ACTIVITY

For this activity, give each kid a brown paper bag, green and purple construction paper, and scissors. Have kids cut the top of the paper bag into strips about halfway down its length. Then, have them open the bag so it stands, pinch it in the middle, and twist it to make a tree trunk. Then have them cut leaves and figs out of the construction paper and tape or glue them onto the branches. Older kids can write ways they want to grow on the figs! Scan QR code to see a worked example.



The parable Jesus told about the fig tree perfectly described how God waits for us while we grow. Just like the caretaker promised to take care of the fig tree, God gives us everything we need to grow, including opportunities for us to learn from our mistakes.

Place your tree somewhere where you can see it every day to remind you that **God gives us second chances.**

MEMORY VERSE: "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." — Jeremiah 33:3 (NIV)

