



1 Youth Ministry

Grades 7-12

March 16, 2025

Jesus curses a fig tree

Contact Us

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Links

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Website

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Previous Lessons

Text Prayer
Requests
Anytime 24/7



Foster Care Teens

Personal Care Items

We are always collecting "Personal Care Items" for teens in foster care throughout the year. Items for both male and female teens

See the sidebar for our new **TEXT Prayer Request Line!**
Simply **text "I need prayer" to 844-533-3553** anytime,
and our team of Prayer Warriors will be praying for you.

Remember
Midweek Thursday Youth service 7pm!

Sunday



Jesus curses a fig tree

Last Sunday, we looked at a very short story, told in both Matthew and in Mark, that we likely just read through without much thought about it or at the very least, not fully understanding it.

We started the class talking about figs and fig trees and even handed out figs and fig newtons for the class to try. We talked about the nutritional importance in hot/dry climates like the middle east.

We discussed how figs are often mentioned in the Bible as a symbol of peace and prosperity and how the fig tree itself even became a symbol of Israel representing the nation's health, prosperity, and judgement.

are being collected in the bin located on tables in the hall. These items will be sorted into personal bags and given to DCS to be distributed to teens who may not even have their own tooth brush or comb.

This Week's Bible Verses

Matthew 21:18-22

¹⁸ Early in the morning, as Jesus was on his way back to the city, he was hungry. ¹⁹ Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, "May you never bear fruit again!" Immediately the tree withered. ²⁰ When the disciples saw this, they were amazed. "How did the fig tree wither so quickly?" they asked. ²¹ Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done. ²² If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

Mark 11:12-14

¹² The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. ¹³ Seeing in the distance a fig tree in

We read the story together in **Matthew 21:18-22** and asked, "what the heck is going on?" Was Jesus just really Hangry or something and He got so mad at the stupid fig tree for not having fruit that He killed it? Then He decided to turn the whole situation into a lesson on faith telling His Disciples that if they have faith, they can kill a fig tree too?

We decided there had to be more to the story as this was totally out of character for Jesus. We decided to look in **Mark 11:12-14** to see what Mark had to say about the whole thing.

We found that Mark pretty much told the same story except he added a couple of important details. He said the fig tree was "in leaf". He also mentioned that it was "not the season for figs".

So, now we had Jesus being angry at the tree for not having figs when it wasn't even the season for figs. That made even less sense. We decided we needed to know more about fig trees to really figure this out.

We know that Jesus and His Disciples were on their way to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration which is in the Spring and fig trees generally bear fruit in the Summer so Mark was correct in saying that it was not the season for figs. We needed to know a little more.

It turns out that fig trees begin to grow their fruit just prior to or at the same time as the leaves. While the figs do not fully ripen until Summer, the early fruit is also edible meaning that if a fig tree has leaves on it, one can expect that it also has fruit. Now we understood a little more about why Jesus expected there to be fruit.

Knowing how Jesus uses symbolism and metaphors and also knowing that a fig tree was used as a symbol of Israel, everything started to make more sense.

Next we looked at the figs themselves. We found that fruit is often used throughout the Bible to represent the "results of a person's faith in action". We looked at **Galatians 5** and the Fruit of the Spirit as an example. Paul is telling us that we should produce this fruit (results of our faith in action) when we walk in faith.

So, then we put everything together and came up with Jesus was using the fig tree as a metaphor representing people who appear to be fruitful on the outside (showing leaves) but their actions do not represent the Spirit (no fruit). They are hypocrites.

leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴ Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it.

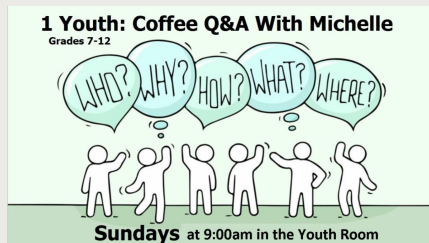
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Not only that, the fig tree being a symbol of Israel means this was a warning to all the people of Israel against the hypocrisy of showing the appearance of having faith without actually producing the fruit that should come from their faith and which would ultimately lead to their spiritual death (like the fig tree).

We talked about how this still happens today with people showing they are faithful or religious on the outside but on the inside they are no different than the world (no fruit). They are considered to be hypocrites.

We said that Christians are often called hypocrites for not behaving as our faith says that we should. We agreed that it is difficult to truly put our faith into action and show the fruit of our faith but we have help.

We said that just like how fertilizer helps a fig tree grow fruit, our relationship with Father God and with Jesus and with The Holy Spirit will help the fruit of the Spirit grow and thrive within us to be seen by others in our actions, in our attitudes, and in our words.



Pre-Service Coffee Q&A

Sundays at 9:00am

Join us in the Youth Room every Sunday, starting at 9:00am, for refreshments in a casual atmosphere for an opportunity for you and your friends to ask questions and discuss answers to your most pressing questions about God, Jesus, the Bible, other Religions, Christianity, or just about Life in general.

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Connect with us



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