

# Faith on Fire

Family Guide

Week of March 13, 2022

3rd Sunday in Lent  
(Weekly dated March 20)

## Opening Prayer



**+Always Forgiving Father,  
We know you love us so much  
that you give us unlimited  
chances to start over and draw  
closer to you.**

**Thank you for...  
We are sorry for. . . and we ask  
for your help with . . .  
In Jesus' name we pray,  
Amen +**

## Parable of a Fig Luke 13:1-9 (Overview for Adult Leader)

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus makes a call for repentance. He follows this with a parable about a barren fig tree whose owner wants to cut down. Instead, the gardener asks the owner to give the tree another year and to allow him to cultivate the land around it and fertilize it.

Like the gardener, God is not in haste to condemn. He is willing to give us a chance to repent---even many chances. But like the fig tree, we do not have forever. The time will eventually come when we will face a final judgment and have to account for how well we have served God and others.

## QUICK CONNECT (10 min)

**Begin by each child completing the front cover of *their* Gospel Weekly (3 min)**

**Catholic Faith Word:** A great way to start your Scripture time together is to do hangman with the Catholic Faith Word. Choose one word if you have multiple children or if time permits do multiple words!

**NOTE: Families with ONLY PROMISE children, please go [HERE](#) for your Parent Teaching Guide which includes opening story, Gospel. & questions. You may look at this Family Guide for extra resources.**

**DO ALL TOGETHER - READ A OPENING STORY & Do the Questions** This is a quick opportunity for everyone to listen to ONE story which will prepare them for the Gospel. (If you have students in different levels, pick just one story.) Promise found at **RED** link above.

**Short on time?** Skip the story & pick from the discussion starter questions below to make a quick connection with family members & move on to the Gospel Reading.

**Questions:** Pick 1 or 2 that apply to your child(ren)

- *Have you ever given someone a second chance?*
- *Has anyone ever given you a second chance?*





## Discover the Gospel TOGETHER - 20 min

(Overview for Adult Leader) When we make unloving choices, we hurt our relationship with God and others. We ask God to forgive our sins in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. "Conversion is first of all a work of the grace of God who makes our hearts return to him...God gives us the strength to begin anew" (CCC, 1432). "God's mercy is boundless. True repentance always leads to God's forgiveness. But to receive his mercy, we must admit our faults. 'If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness'" (CCC #1847)

### Read the Gospel (in Bible) OR read/act out the Gospel Play from ONE of the printed Pflaum Weeklies - Luke 13:9-1



**TOGETHER** do the Gospel Reflection Questions found in your child's Weekly (in yellow boxes), except Promise & most explained below.

**What kind of person is the owner of the property?** *Demanding, harsh*

**What kind of person is the gardener?** *compassionate, kind, loving*

**Who is like God in the parable--the owner or the gardener?** *The gardener*

**Why does the gardener want to keep the tree?** *The gardener thought there was still a chance the tree could grow figs.*

**What might help the tree grow some figs?** *The gardener could give the tree fertilizer, more water, dig up the ground around it, trim off dead branches.*

**Why did Jesus tell this story?** *Jesus wanted to tell us his Father is like the gardener. God will always give us another chance. God wants everything to grow. God also gives us second/third/fourth chances.*

**Who helps you to grow?**

**Who is Jesus like, the owner or the gardener?** *Jesus is like the gardener, who wants to keep the tree, cultivate and fertilize it, and give it another chance.*

**How does Jesus feel about giving people many chances to bear fruit?** *Jesus always gives people another chance and another chance and another chance, etc.*

**What kind of changes are hard to make?** *Changes that require sacrifice, like reducing foods we like or time spent online or making an effort to spend more time with God.*

**How does God help you to make changes in your life?** *God provides us with the strength, courage and grace we need to make hard changes. We need to just ask for His help. When we change behaviors for the better, we know that we are growing closer to the kind of person God wants us to become.*

**What does Jesus insist is not true about the people who were killed by Pilate's soldiers or the Siloam tower?** *They were no worse than those who lived in Jerusalem; they did not 'deserve' to be killed.*

**Why does the man in the parable want to cut down the fig tree?** *He wants to cut it down because it never bears figs and is wasting space. **What does the gardener want to do?** *The gardener wants to cultivate it, fertilize it, and give it another year to bear fruit.**

Have each child work on **their** pages in What the Church Believes & Teaches (WCBT)  
**Each child will work individually in their book as they may not be covering the same content.**

**Promise** students will do Jesus Wants Us to do the Right Thing (p 22)

**Good News** students will do Penance & Reconciliation (p 39)

**Venture** students will do Commandments I, II, III (p 33)

**Visions** students will do Three Different Ways to Pray (p 41)





## Go Live It!! (10 min)

**Think about second chances. Look for an opportunity to extend a second chance to somebody this week.**

Don't forget to be sharing your highs & lows for the day; what you're thankful for AND what you are sorry for.

### Closing Prayer:

Use the prayer found in your Gospel Weekly to close your time together. It can be found in the Family Corner (Promise/Good news) or With My Family & Friends section (Venture/Visions).



**Show us what you've learned or how you've lived your faith this week !**

Together, let's take one step closer to God!

**Find the Assignment Form HERE.  
Due Next Sunday**

### Car Rides Review Questions!

Can you tell me what the Gospel was about?  
Why do you think this story is in the Bible?  
What did we learn from the Gospel?

**INTERESTED IN A LITTLE MORE  
ADVENTURE?! CHECK OUT  
THESE ADDITIONAL  
RESOURCES!!**



**To receive weekly tips from Pflaum Weekly click here**

### Learn about the Eucharist

In the Eucharist, the sacrifice of Christ is made present, and the sacrifice of Christ is the fullest expression of the love of the Father and the Son. –Bishop Robert Barron

God is Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The love that the Father and Son share is perfect. It is so perfect that it breathes forth (spirates) another person—the Holy Spirit. Out of love for humanity, the Father asks the Son to express his love by becoming human and dying on the Cross. Out of love for the Father and for humanity, the Son says yes to the Father. And so we have Jesus, both God and man. Jesus sacrificed his life on the Cross for us. The Eucharist, in the changing of bread and wine into Jesus' Body and Blood, makes that sacrifice present again. The perfect love of Father and Son is expressed in the Eucharist.

### Saint of the Week -

- St. Oscar Romero

### Younger Students

- Bible Bag Story
- An Actual First Reconciliation

### Older Students/Adults

- Our Father explained
- How Am I Supposed to Pray
- Eucharistic Adoration

