

The Fig Tree

Readings	1) Ezekiel 33:7-20 2) 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 3) Luke 13:1-9
Scripture Focus	Luke 13:6-9
Take Away	Fig Newton cookie?
Aids (pics, props, etc.)	Options: Small potted plant. A few figs to show. Fig Newtons so they can try a fig cookie. Yum.
Message [This is an object lesson. Children younger than about 2nd grade have trouble connecting an object to the lesson. They will see the plant and the talk about Jesus separately.] What do I have here? [A plant.] Yes, what is the biggest plant you have outside your house? [A tree.] That's right. Today's story is about a tree that grows fruit. It's not an orange or apple or peach tree, but a tree we don't have growing around here. It's a fig tree. [If you have time, show them what it looks like OR even a fig. :o]] Now for the story. One day the man who was growing it walked up to it hoping to see some figs hanging from the branches. But he didn't. The tree stopped growing fruit. The man said, "Cut it down! If it's not growing fruit, I don't want it anymore." The gardener said, "It's sick, but maybe we can make it better again. But you know, we have to take care of our plants. They need things to grow and especially to grow fruit. What do plants need? [water, sunshine, and sometimes vitamins for the dirt that's called fertilizer] That's what this tree needed. The man who took care of the tree said, "Let me give it more of what it needs to grow bigger and stronger and look at it again next year to see if it grows fruit." The tree owner agreed. That's what Jesus does for us. Sometimes we're not ready. Like the tree needs more water, sunshine, and fertilizer, we need more Bible reading, praying, and going to Sunday School. Next year our faith will grow bigger and stronger. So, every time you eat a fig cookie you can be reminded that you should read the Bible or say a prayer. Let's pray.	
Repeat Prayer	Dear Jesus, You help us grow / like a fig tree. You give us what we need / to grow big, strong faith. Thank you for loving us. We love you. Amen.



