

## **Discovery Community Church – Small Group Discussion Guide**

### **Reasonable Faith – 2/18/24**

#### **Luke 13:1-17**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

- Are you a rule-follower or someone who looks for loopholes?

#### **DISCUSSION**

*Have a volunteer read Luke 13:1-9*

- Is it easy to determine whether some difficult circumstances in the lives of other people are the consequences of sin? What is the danger of associating someone's misfortune with sin?
- Why does God value repentance so highly? What do we communicate to God when we are repentant?
- Why did Jesus tell the parable of the fig tree? What does the fig tree with no figs represent? Who does the vineyard owner represent? Who does the caretaker represent? Is there hope for the fig tree?
- What is the connection between bearing fruit and repentance?
- Where do you see yourself in this parable? What does the warning of the fig tree call Christians to do?
- What are some examples of fruit that God wants His followers to produce?

*Have a volunteer read Luke 13:10-17 and Exodus 20:8-11*

- In the Exodus passage, God commanded us to make the Sabbath a day of rest. How had the Pharisees twisted God's original Sabbath command?
- In addition to rule following, what other things cause us to miss opportunities to meet people's needs? What tensions between caring for people and keeping religious rules do you experience? Explain.
- What do we learn about God's expectations for His followers from this passage? In what ways is the church good at caring for and serving the needs in our community.
- In verse 17 we see the people were delighted in all Jesus was doing. What in your daily life causes you to delight in God?
- In what ways are we as individuals, and as the church as a whole, guilty of showing the same self-righteous attitude as the Pharisees? What is the result?
- What steps do we need to take as individuals and as the church to show that we love people more than we love rules and traditions?

#### **APPLICATION**

- What is something that our small group could do together to love and serve our community? What steps could we take to move this from idea to action?
- How can your group be praying for you?