

★ **BIG** ★
PICTURE

God gives us second
CHANCES.

LUKE 13:6–9
2 PETER 3:8–9

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

**CALL TO ME AND I WILL ANSWER YOU AND TELL YOU GREAT
AND UNSEARCHABLE THINGS YOU DO NOT KNOW.**

Jeremiah 33:3 (NIV)



God gives us second **CHANCES.**

Luke 13:6–9; 2 Peter 3:8–9



Welcome back to Week 4! It's time for another Big Picture. Do you know that sometimes movies get second chances? They make sequels or remakes to make things even better. Well, guess what? Today's story is all about second chances—kind of like hitting the reset button.

Just like in movies, we get second chances from God. It's like getting another shot to do better or starting again when things don't go as planned. This week's Big Picture is found in Luke 13:6–9.

The owner carefully walks around the tree, investigating every single branch. He scratches his head. This is a fig tree, but there are no figs. He's not happy. The tree branches sway side to side as if to say they're sorry. The vineyard owner talks to the caretaker using big emotions and actions. He holds up the number three on his fingers to say that this tree has shown zero fruit for three years! The tree is now sulking. Its branches are pointing downward and if trees had faces, this one would look particularly sad.

The caretaker of the vineyard pleads with the owner. He's rubbing his hands together. He holds up one finger as if to say, "Let's give the tree one more chance." After one year, if there is still no fruit, we can cut it down. The owner seems okay with this deal. He shrugs his shoulders and walks away.

The tree breathes a sigh of relief, and its branches are up and dancing in the breeze! This parable is all about second chances. The fig tree's entire purpose was to produce figs, but it hadn't been done for a long time. The owner saw that there was no use for a tree that wouldn't bear fruit, but the caretaker invited the owner to give it one more year to grow.

This is like God, who is patient with us. God still loves us even when we make mistakes and give in to sin. God gives us more chances to learn from our wrongdoings and grow the way God wants us to.

You know how long it takes to make a movie? It takes years to make a movie, sometimes 5-10 years! Sometimes even longer. It all starts with an idea, then a script, then raising the money to make it and hiring all the people—and even when you're done with the filming part, you still have to edit it all together in "post," where you cut scenes, add in visual and sound effects, and lay down some music.

You know what else takes a long time? Fruit! Yes, Fruit! Fruit also takes a long time to grow. Some trees also take years to bear fruit. Just like how it takes patience to see things bear fruit, God is patient with us.

God is so patient that time doesn't matter to God. Sometimes we might grow impatient with God, but we can learn to trust God's perfect timing. Because God sees time differently than we do, we have more chances to grow and bear the kind of fruit God wants us to grow, like being more loving, joyful, peaceful, kind, gentle, faithful, and helpful to others ... and patient, like God!

Just like the caretaker of the fig tree wanted to help the tree bear fruit, God patiently cares for us and helps us grow to be more like Jesus. God gives us second chances.

2 Peter 3:8-9

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.



Scripture/application

- Who were the two characters in today's parable from Jesus?
- Why did the landowner want to cut down the fig tree?
- How did the caregiver convince the landowner not to cut it down?
- Read 2 Peter 3:9.
 - Why is God being patient with us?
- 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?

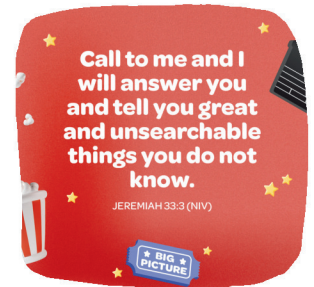


"YOU'RE NEVER GONNA GIVE UP ON ME"

ORANGE KIDS MUSIC

"HE'LL FORGIVE (1 JOHN 1:9)"

PROMISELAND



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.

For this activity, use 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 (QR Code) 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! See a worked example using 2nd QR code.



Popsicle sticks were originally meant for holding up popsicles, but they have a second chance as a craft material. These green leaves were originally meant as cupcake paper. They've been given a second chance as part of this tree. Second chances are meant to help us be more fruitful, and God gives us second chances.

For this craft, use a jumbo popsicle stick and four green cupcake liners to make a tree (QR Code). Color the popsicle stick brown with markers or washable paint to make the trunk.

Fold each cupcake liner in half to make the leaves. Glue the ends of each leaf onto the stick trunk. Glue three or four purple pop-poms or dot stickers on the tree to represent figs.