



TLC Study Guide for March 24, 2019

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: When bad things happen, we often wonder, “Why did God allow that to happen?” We know God has a plan, but God’s plan is not always known. Startling headlines should cause us to be humble, repentant, and look to Christ our Savior as God’s ultimate solution to the brokenness of sin.

Getting Started:

1. Have you heard any bad news lately or seen startling headlines recently?
2. Often there is a lot of good news that we miss. What is some good news, or positive headlines that you have heard lately?

In the Word: Read Luke 13:1-9

3. Pontius Pilate could be a cruel and harsh ruler (as were many Romans) and had struck down a rebellious group of Galileans. Someone told Jesus about it (remember Jesus was a Galilean) and what was Jesus’ response? (vs. 3)
4. There was a report of a tower that had collapsed and killed 18 workers in Siloam. It was disturbing news, as we often hear of freak fatal accidents and it unsettles us. But what did Jesus say our response to this should be? (vs. 5)
5. In light of Jesus’ above responses (vs. 3, vs. 5), what do you think the fruit of the tree in the parable is supposed to be?
6. Read **Matthew 3:7-10**. What did John the Baptist say about fruit and the tree, and do you see any similarities to Jesus’ parable?

In the Word: Read Ezekiel 33:7-11

7. Whom will the Lord hold accountable for the blood of the wicked if the prophet does not speak out and try to dissuade them from their evil ways? vs. 8

8. What important attribute or quality of God do we learn about in verse 11?

Read Ezekiel 33:12-20

9. What is God saying about righteous and wicked people who either repent or do not repent in verses 12-14?
10. How do the Lord's words bring potential comfort to the wicked?
11. How do the Lord's words bring potential warning for the righteous?

Pulling it all together

12. Sometimes we may complain as the Israelites did, "The way of the Lord is not just." Have you ever honestly felt that way?
13. When we hear bad news or startling headlines, we sometimes are tempted to try and figure out why God did something. This is called Theodicy. It is trying to know the mind of God. When are we most often tempted to theodicy and speculate a reason for God's actions?
14. What should our response to bad news & startling headlines be? (hint: not theodicy! But according to Jesus in the Luke 13 passage).

Prayer: Ask the Lord to turn all our hearts in repentance and trust to our Savior Jesus, who is the ultimate answer to all of our "why" questions. Ask for peace and comfort when we don't know what God's plan might be, and for trust in His good and gracious will for us. Pray for boldness and confidence in speaking and witnessing to our Savior Jesus so that others too, may turn and live.

Lent! This Wednesday (March 27) we pray for persecuted Christians around the world. This is part of our Prayers of the Passion series, focusing on aspects of prayer and Christ's passion each week. Worship 7 p.m.