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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, February 28, 2016

Lent – 3rd Sunday – Lectionary Year C

Scripture: [Luke 13:1-9](#) [**Summary:** *God helps us grow*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies needed

ASK (a.k.a [The On-Ramp](#))

- Good morning! I have a question for you...
- What do you think would happen if you **only** ate ice cream, chocolate cake, potato chips, cookies and candy and only drank soda every day?
- That's right, you probably wouldn't feel very good after awhile, would you?
- Why is that, do you think? (Because that is not healthy food and makes us feel *unhealthy* when we eat too much of it)
- What are some healthy foods that we can eat that will help us feel healthy?
- And do other people in your life help you to eat these foods - even when you sometimes don't want to?

TELL (a.k.a [The Freeway](#))

- So in today's scripture story, Jesus tells his disciples a story about a gardener.
- The story goes like this: An owner of some land wants a gardener to destroy a fig tree because it's not bearing any fruit.
- But the gardener says, "Let's give the tree more time. I'll give it some extra special fertilizer and then we'll see how it does."
- Fertilizer, as you may know, is extra-healthy food for a tree.
- If we pretend that the gardener is God in the story, then we see that God is helping that tree to grow by giving it better food

SHARE the Good News (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- And, if we pretend that we are like the tree in the story, then we can think about what some of those healthy fertilizers that God offers us look like...
- For instance, God's love, wisdom and care are all good and healthy things that can help us grow
- And, if we receive God's love, wisdom, and care – then we will bear fruit that we can share with others.
- In other words, when we receive God's love, wisdom and care, we can then better share that love, wisdom, and care with those around us.
- And that's the good news for today
- Let's pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,

Dear God,

Help us to receive...

Help us to receive...

...your love, wisdom and care ...

...your love, wisdom and care ...

...so that we can then...

...so that we can then...

...share your love, wisdom, and care with others.

...share your love, wisdom, and care with others.

...with others.

...with others.

Amen