



## A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Series Theme:	The Gospel According to Peter
Text for the Week:	Luke 13:6-9
Message for the Week:	The Slow Work of God
Theme for the Week:	Ditch the Axe; Spread Manure

### Week 5

#### Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

When did something in your life take way longer than you hoped or expected?

#### Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

#### Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Luke 13:6-9](#) out loud.

[Clicking this link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, take note of, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

## Respond / Reflect:

How would you define a parable or explain what a parable is to someone who doesn't know? What is your favorite parable? Why?

Do you more quickly pass judgement or offer grace? Why?

How do you acknowledge and imitate the slowness of God in your life?

If you had one more year like the fig tree to turn your life around, what would you do?

The Lord's return seems to be slow. Why does God wait?

Are you an impatient or patient person? When? Why?

What people, places, or situations in your life could benefit from some manure.

Contrast these two tools: an axe and manure. Can you name a time when you have been tempted to use an axe instead of manure in a relationship conflict?

## "Try It!"

Pay attention this week to when you become impatient. Reflect on what is causing you to feel and react this way.

## Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you.

Pray this prayer together:

*Father, we thank you for your wonderful works among us (Psalm 107:31) - and we are thankful you are patient with us as you wait for us to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9) and bear fruit that honors you. Thank you for working in our lives to continually bring about renewal and obedience. In receiving your grace and mercy, make us gracious, merciful...and patient...with one another. Forgive us, in Jesus' name, when we fail to walk humbly with you (Micah 6:8). Amen.*

## Missional/Spiritual Practice for the Month: Connecting with Neighbors

During the season of Lent, we are encouraged to give something up to deepen our relationship with God and each other. Each day during the month of April, take time during your day from doing something else to connect with one of your neighbors. You could stop and say hello, bring them a plate of cookies, help them with spring clean-up in their yard, go for a walk together through your neighborhood or a nearby park, have them over for dinner, bring them flowers to enjoy, or something else the Spirit of God prompts you to do.