



ST NINIAN'S UNITING CHURCH

MARCH 23rd, 2025

BASED ON LUKE 13:1-9



This week is about a fruit tree- in fact a fig tree. In the bible Jesus said he wants us to be like a fruit tree – not like the one in the picture which has no fruit on it, a fruit tree that has lots of fruit. How do you think you could be like a fruit tree maybe an apple tree or an orange tree?

What Jesus meant was for a tree to make fruit it needs to be planted in good sunshine and soil, watered, protected from bugs that might eat the leaves, and worms that might make their home in fruit. A good healthy tree also needs to be cared for, fertilised and pruned at the right time of the year. In other words, the tree can't be left and forgotten – uncared for. For a fruit tree to grow good fruit it needs to be cared for all the time not just sometimes. Without that kind of caring, and love, there will be no apples or oranges.

Unfortunately, the fig tree in the bible story that Luke wrote about didn't produce any fruit for three years and when the gardener found out he told the farmer to chop it down because it's taking up space on the farm that could be used for something else.

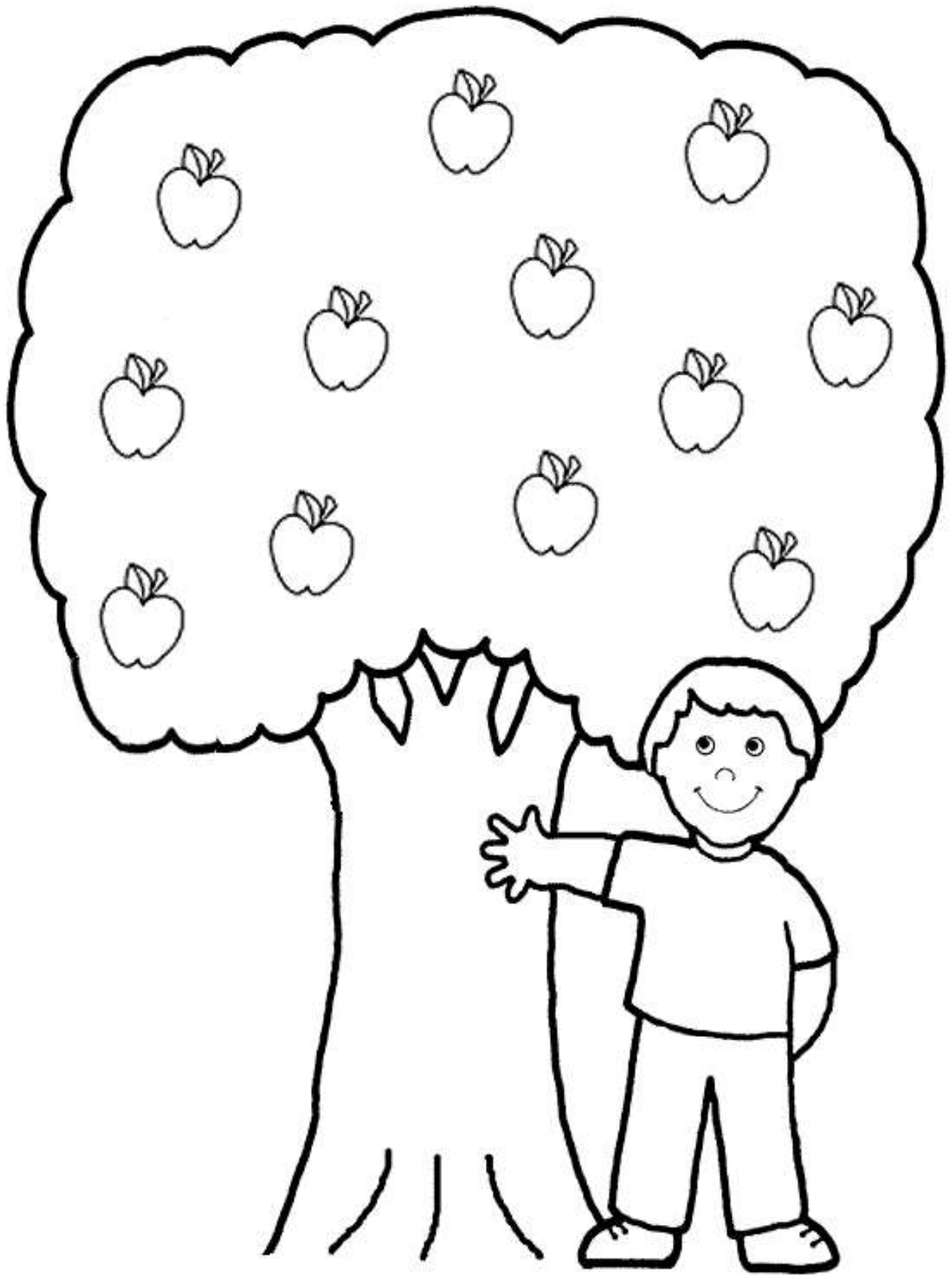
Naturally this upset the farmer, so the gardener gave the tree one more year to give fruit before it had to be cut down.

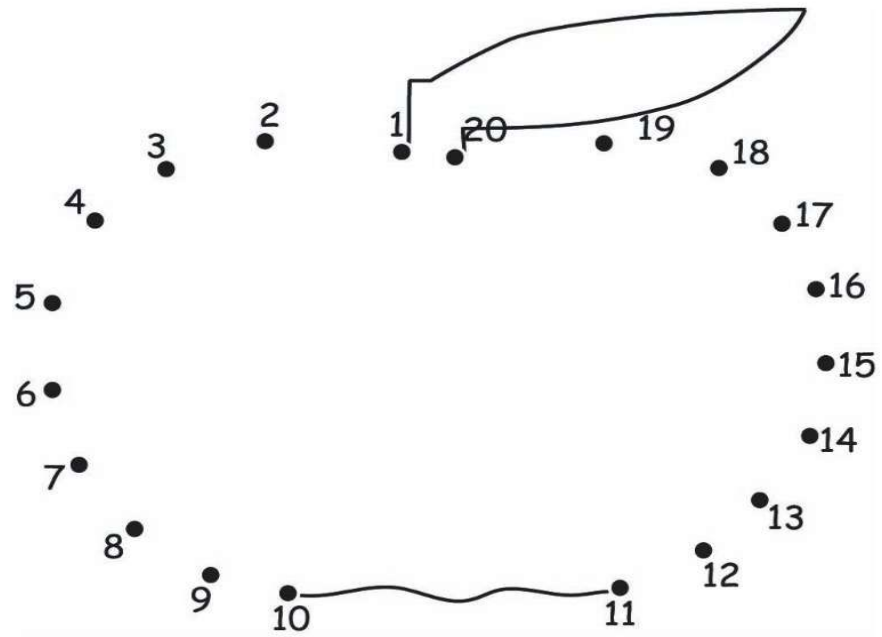
Just like that fruit tree, Jesus says he wants us to grow fruit. We aren't fruit trees, but we do have things like trust, faith and love, features or gifts and skills that show we really are followers of Jesus and try our best to do what Jesus wants us to do. But like a tree must actually be a fruit tree to bear fruit, we actually have to be Jesus' followers before we can bear fruit. Luke, one of the people who tells us stories about Jesus tells us to turn away from our wrong choices and believe in Jesus and what he can do for us or has already done for us. Then, like a tree that has the right water and sun to grow fruit, we too, can grow 'fruit'.

PRAYER:

Dear Jesus, I know that sometimes I make wrong choices and I really want to follow you. help me to be better at doing what you want me to do.

Amen





For those who really enjoy colouring in small spaces – the challenge is yours!!



The Parable of the Fig Tree

"'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'" Luke 13:8-9 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
G	N	V	M	A	B	U	I	W	O	E	Z	J	R	K	T	Y	P	L	H	D	Q	X	S	F	C

1. 25-11-14-16-8-19-8-12-11 _____
2. 3-8-2-11-17-5-14-21 _____
3. 25-14-7-8-16 _____
4. 24-10-8-19 _____
5. 18-19-5-2-16-11-21 _____
6. 18-5-14-5-6-19-11 _____
7. 16-14-11-11 _____
8. 25-8-1 _____

PARABLE	TREE	VINEYARD	FRUIT
PLANTED	FIG	FERTILIZE	SOIL

The Parable of the Fig Tree

Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story.



Jesus Tells a Story

Then he told this _____: "A man had a _____ tree, planted in his _____, and he went to look for _____ on it, but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For _____ years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig _____ and haven't found any. _____ it down! Why should it use up the _____?'

" 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more _____, and I'll _____ around it and _____ it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it _____.'

Luke 13:6-9 (NIV)

cut	fertilize	parable	tree
dig	fig	soil	vineyard
down	fruit	three	year

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XH6Okj6c298>



