

# THE MESSAGE OF JESUS

## EPISODE 2: THE CALL TO REPENTANCE

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN

---

#### Main Points

*Here are the big ideas you want people to understand:*

- Jesus taught good news and bad news. The good news only makes sense if we understand the bad news. The bad news is that we are guilty before God and we will one day be held accountable.
- The good news is that we can settle with God on the way to the courthouse. We do this by repenting.
- The time to repent is now! No one knows when they will be called before the judge. God is patient, but his patience has a limit.

### EXPLORING THE STORY

---

#### ◀ Look Back

*Before diving into this week's session, give the group a chance to share and catch up to see where each person is at. Start with the following:*

#### 1. One-up (or One-down)

Invite each person to share one thing that has happened over the past week that they are grateful for (or, they can share one thing that has been weighing on them)

#### 2. Prayer

Have a time of prayer and thanksgiving based on what was shared

#### 3. Review

Quickly summarize where we've been before moving into this week's story:

“ **Last week...** we learned that Jesus had been sent to earth with a message of good news: God is bringing his kingdom to Earth and inviting us to become his people! Jesus' message was not meant to merely inform us of God's plan. His message calls us to *become part* of God's plan. The message of Jesus demands a response.

## ▲ Look Up

*Now that you've reviewed where we've been, shift to this week's episode.*

### 4. Setting the Stage

“ Jesus announced God's kingdom and he called people to enter it. But *how* do we enter the kingdom? Jesus taught that we must first repent. Only those who have repented can enter the Kingdom of God. This week we'll learn more about Jesus' message of repentance.

As we read the story, be thinking about these things:

- Who needs to repent?
- What are the consequences if we don't repent?

### 5. Read **Luke 12.54 – 13.9** and then discuss:

- “
- What do you like about this reading? What bothers you?
  - Jesus tells two stories about seeing trouble ahead of time and taking action to prepare for it (vs. 12.54-59). What does this have to do with repenting?
  - When Jesus was told about people who had tragically and unexpectedly died, how did he respond? (vs. 13.1-5)
  - Jesus tells the parable of the fig tree that had no fruit. Who is the owner of the vineyard? Who is the vinedresser? What does the tree represent? What is the fruit that is expected?
  - What is the significance of *time* in the parable? (vs. 13.7-9)

## ► Look Ahead

*Help people process the implications of this week's reading and how they should apply its truths to the way they think and live.*

### 6. Implications and Applications

- “
- A storm is coming and we need to prepare for it
  - Make things right with your opponent before you reach the courthouse. You *will* be found guilty. Repenting is how we make things right with God before we reach the courthouse.
  - We repent when we agree with God that his way is right and ours is wrong, and when we change direction and begin seeking to follow his plan for our lives. This is the “fruit” of repentance that God is looking for.
  - No one knows how close they are to judgment. We could be called to account at any time. Have you made things right?

### 7. Closing Prayer