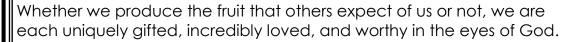


What's the Big Idea?

I am worthy

While Jesus was teaching, he told this story. There once was a vineyard, and in that vineyard was a fig tree. The owner of the vineyard saw that there were no figs on the fig tree and said to

the gardener, "This fig tree hasn't made any figs in three years. What a waste of space! Cut it down! Why should we keep wasting time and money on something that will never give me what I want?" But the gardener didn't want to cut the fig tree down, because gardeners know how special trees are, whether or not they make fruit. "Give it another year," the gardener told the owner. "Let me give it some good fertilizer and some more time, and maybe next year it will make figs."





ReadIt

Find this week's story on page 372 of your Spark Story Bible.

Where do you see Squiggles this week?



Try It

Create a tree to remember that you are worthy and loved, no matter what kind of gifts you share. What gifts does your tree share with the world?



Talk About It

How do you think the story ends? Does the fig tree make fruit next year? If not, does the owner cut it down? Does the gardener argue for more time?

Do you think God is more like the vineyard owner or more like the gardener? Why?

What does it feel like to be measured in only one way? (You might share a story of not measuring up—not getting good grades in a certain subject, not being as fast as other kids, not reading as well as classmates, etc., but having gifts in other areas.)

What else do trees do, other than provide fruit? (Make homes for animals, provide shade, anchor the soil, produce oxygen, etc.) Are these things more or less important than making figs?

Affirm It

Throughout Lent, enjoy a weekly affirmation for reflection.

What does it mean to you?

I am worthy.

I Am Worthy

Harvest Time. Whoops! Can you help a farmer out? They got so excited about their fig tree that they forgot about the rest of their garden! Help the farmer by drawing in their plants into each of the harvest bins.

