

Christmas Story Series – Week 1 – Grinch - Dec. 7, 2022

How the Grinch Stole Christmas – Dr. Suess book (and movie)

Read beginning. Note - some truths to the Christmas story:

- The Grinch lives an **isolated life. Outcasts**
 - **Outcasts in Christmas story - Shepherds**
 - “And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.” – **Luke 2:8**
 - **God loves outcasts.** He brings them into His story.
 - God never calls on us to live isolated lives.
 - Jesus had 12 disciples. Calvary: John/Mother
 - Paul traveled w/ Barnabas, John Mark, Timothy, Silas.
 - **Psalm 68:6** - *“You find families for those who are lonely. You set prisoners free and let them prosper”*
 - Body of Christ is a family: brothers, sisters.
- **Families of Whoville** show Christmas spirit. Read More
 - **Gifts are gone, but the Gift of Christmas is Jesus.**
 - **Luke 2:9-12** – “An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 - Today in the town of David **a Savior has been born to you**; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”
 - Savior born to you . . . **this baby is our gift.**
 - Nothing can **take away** our gift – **stop C-mas** - or **steal joy!**
 - Jesus said: “you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.” **John 16:22**
- **Joy came to us at C-mas.** Peace, love joy. . . byproducts of Jesus.
 - It’s why the Whos of Whoville could still sing.
 - Joy is what filled the Shepherds; told everyone of angels & Jesus
 - The joy of the Lord gives us purpose – **Share it like a Shepherd**

- **Psalm 16:11** – “You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy”
 - **God is joy... it’s in Connection to God, not our Circumstances.**
 - **Circumstances change...** God can make them better.
 - “You have turned my mourning into joyful dancing. You have taken away my clothes of mourning and clothed me with joy” – **Psalm 30:11**
 - Joy enables us to sing and celebrate even tho life isn’t perfect.
 - **When going thru hard times...** know God is at work.
- The **Grinch’s heart grew 3 sizes that day.** **Read last part**
 - God gives us new hearts . . . replaces stony hearts.
 - **Ezek. 36:26** – “And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.”
 - God transforms us, gives us new hearts & new life.
 - God’s love can triumph over the meanest, coldest heart.
 - Ready to give God your heart? Willing.
- The Whos of Whoville were a witness to the Grinch.
 - His life was changed b/c of them. We are changed b/c of God
 - C-mas: we redeem coupons, discount codes... **“to get back”**
 - God redeemed us with Jesus.
 - Jesus paid our ransom. God gets us back... close to Him.
 - Christmas isn’t about materialism. It’s about Redemption
 - We should tell everyone. Be a witness.
 - Real Gift of Christmas is Jesus - He wasn’t wrapped under a tree, but nailed to it.
 - Jesus came to show the lonely & the lost – they are loved.

Stay positive. Test negative. Vaccinated.

Song of the week: Anne Wilson & Josh Turner – “The Manger”