



Missing Christmas

Big Idea

Hustle and bustle are the signs of the season. Every tree is decorated, and every store shop has tinsel and garland over every door frame. For many of us this brings nostalgia and warmth to our hearts as we prepare to celebrate Christmas. But through all of parties, presents, and decorations, could it be that we missed the whole meaning of Christmas? It seems that we needed the Grinch to remind us of the reason for the season:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. - Isaiah 9:6

The presence of God made His dwelling among us, and is the whole reason for Christmas, but we will miss it if we are **self-centered, constantly comparing** with others, and **focused on the wrong things**. We miss Christmas if we **lose our sense of family** and **not allow Jesus to heal our hearts**. This Christmas season, let's focus on Jesus, above the presents, let's focus on His Presence in our lives.

Discussion Questions

1. What is one takeaway from the sermon that you can apply to make sure you don't miss Christmas this year?
2. Have you ever found yourself comparing yourself to others during Christmas? What practical step can you take to ensure that you don't fall into the comparison trap?
3. On a scale from 1-10, how strong is your sense of family? Explain your number.
4. Does your heart need healing this Christmas season? If so, from what?

Prayer Focus

Father, help us to focus on the true meaning of Christmas. Not the presents, toys, and decorations, which aren't necessarily bad things. But let us focus on the best thing, which is Your Son, Jesus, the hope of the world.

Next Steps

We have our annual Legacy Offering open now, through the end of the year. Pray and ask God what part He would want you to play in that offering. If 100% of our church would be obedient to whatever God asked us to give, we would see God do everything He wanted to do in 2022. Consider what He would have you give for this special, one-time offering.

Bible References

Isaiah 9:6, Luke 10:38-42, Matthew 2:1-11, Galatians 6:4-5, Luke 2:8-9, Psalm 147:3