

NETFLIXMAS

The Grinch Who Stole Christmas Discussion Guide

BIG IDEA: Don't let Christmas traditions keep you from making Christmas about sacrificial giving.

In the movie, the Grinch who stole Christmas, we get a glimpse of what happens when we let our holiday traditions become the reason for the season, rather than doing things that connect us to the true meaning. When a tradition loses its meaning, it can do more harm than good.

The Hero of the story, Cindy Lu, is a picture of the courage, hard work, and risk it takes to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas: to give to those who don't give in return.

KEY PASSAGE:

"To you who are ready for the truth, I say this:

Love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst.

When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer for that person.

If someone slaps you in the face, stand there and take it.

If someone grabs your shirt, giftwrap your best coat and make a present of it.

If someone takes unfair advantage of you, use the occasion to practice the servant life.

No more tit-for-tat stuff. Live generously.

"Here is a simple rule of thumb for behavior:

Ask yourself what you want people to do for you; then grab the initiative and do it for them!

If you only love the lovable, do you expect a pat on the back? Run-of-the-mill sinners do that.

If you only help those who help you, do you expect a medal? Garden-variety sinners do that.

If you only give for what you hope to get out of it, do you think that's charity?

The stingiest of pawnbrokers does that.

"I tell you, love your enemies. Help and give without expecting a return.

Live out this God-created identity the way our Father lives toward us, generously and graciously, even when we're at our worst.

Our Father is kind; you be kind.

(Luke 6:27-35, the Message)

NETFLIXMAS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- When have you been a Grinch? (Someone who isn't just unhappy, but has to make everyone else unhappy too)
- What holiday traditions are MUST do things for you?
- What holiday traditions do you get drug into because of family traditions?
- Do they have a meaning and does that meaning connect to the true meaning of Christmas?
- How do you serve others at Christmas who can't repay?
- How does it make you feel to serve others in need vs. doing your traditions?
- What ways can you think to serve others that you've never tried this Christmas?

GET PERSONAL

How can you celebrate the true meaning of this season???

- What Bible Reading can you engage in?
- Where can you serve in the community?
- Who can you give a gift to, who is in need of one?
- What people do you typically struggle to get along with at work or in your family, and how can you show them extra grace in December?