

Saving Christmas from the Grinch

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Southside Baptist Church
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Passage [READ IT]:

John 1:14-18

Principle [KNOW IT]:

Grace is the essential ingredient for experiencing peace on earth.

Practices [DO THEM]:

Consider **God's grace** in your life and extend it to all the "Grinches" you know.

Daily Readings:

Sunday: Luke 19:1-10; John 8:2-11; Mark 2:13-17

Monday: Matthew 18

Tuesday: Romans 5

Wednesday: Ephesians 2

Thursday: Ephesians 5 & 6

Friday: Philemon

Saturday: Philippians 2:1-18

Small Group Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic]

1. Do you have any lingering questions or thoughts of encouragement that are connected to this week's teaching or daily readings?
2. Grace is fundamentally and by definition unfair. Do you agree? Why or why not?

Christmas is the celebration of the incarnation – God coming to be with us. While this is worth celebrating, it was just the deposit on God's greatest gift. Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection are the ultimate examples of God's grace toward us.

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture]

3. Read Luke 23:32-43
 - a. In what ways did Jesus continue to demonstrate the grace of God even while He was dying?
 - b. What makes this particular encounter so significant? Why is it so important?
 - c. Discuss other examples of Jesus' acts of grace in the New Testament?
4. Read Matthew 5:38-48
 - d. Based on these verses, do you think Jesus gives His followers an option when it comes to showing grace?
 - e. What is most disturbing or unsettling about these verses?
 - f. What does Jesus say the outcome will be for those who practice this kind of radical grace?
5. Read Luke 2:8-20
 - g. Why do you think God chose to announce the birth of Jesus to common shepherds? What does this teach us about God's grace?
 - h. According to verse 11, who would the shepherds find in a manger? How would Jesus "save" us?
 - i. According to verse 14, what did the angels declare?
6. Read Ephesians 2:14-19
 - j. How did Jesus establish peace on earth?
 - k. As those who are recipients of God's grace, what is our responsibility to the rest of the world?
 - l. What is one way you can echo the angels' message of peace on earth in your home this Christmas?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

7. Is there someone in your relational world from whom you are withholding grace? Why are you withholding it? What do you need to do about it? Talk about it, invite accountability, and take time to pray.