



THE ORIGINAL GRINCH

Consumption vs The Spirit of Christmas

ICE BREAKERS:

- Here's a link to some great Icebreaker Q's - <https://funattic.com/76-fun-icebreaker-questions.htm>
- What was the high point of your past week?
- What was the low point of your past week?
- **If time allows:** Ask if anyone put into action what they learned from last week's lesson.

KEY POINTS AND QUESTIONS:

- The Grinch Circle
 - Consumption feeds discontentment
 - Discontentment feeds greed
 - Greed feeds consumption
- Generosity is the Antidote to greed
- Contentment is the key to generosity
- What you feed is what grows – greed or generosity
 - What are you feeding in this Christmas season?
 - What makes it hard to concentrate on the spirit of Christ?
 - Fear of disappointing others because they expect gifts?
 - The bigger person blazes the trail and sets the example. What kind of radical changes do you think would happen if you chose to concentrate your celebration outwardly towards others on only the celebration of the birth of our Savior?

- The Original Grinch

- **Matthew 2:** After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”
When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:” ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”
After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.
- King Herod was so consumed by greed that he couldn’t stand the thought of another one being king other than himself.
 - That’s a new level of greed! After the Magi avoid Herod, he kills all the young boys in this region that are 2 yrs old and younger, trying to get rid of Jesus.
 - Just like any habit, greed escalates. Is greed escalating in your life? What is your setback that causes financial stress?
- **Luke 13:31-33** At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, “Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you.” He replied, “Go tell that fox, ‘I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.’ In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!”
 - This King Herod is the son of the King Herod that tried to kill Jesus as a baby. Greed and generosity are passed down through the generations.
 - Do you see evidence of greed or generosity passed down from your parents to you? How about from you to your children?

- **Luke 23:8-9** When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform a sign of some sort. He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer.
 - We have to acknowledge that consumerism exists and if we have a problem we need to admit it. Then we have to ignore its calling and turn the other way and do just the opposite of it's beckoning.
 - It's difficult to ignore all of the ads and the materialistic world we live in. Where do you spend the most money? Is it in the stores, online, big purchases or small? What is our weakness?

Here's some great questions to challenge you this CHRISTmas season:

- Does the thought of Christmas fill you with anxiety or peace?
- Have you spent more time preparing your home for guests than preparing your heart for your Savior?
- How does the time you spent shopping compare to the time you spend in worship?
- Will you spend more money this Christmas on people that can take a vacation than on people who are in need?
- Are you more excited about what your kids are going to think about what you got them for Christmas or what they think about the story of Jesus?
- Who reins in your home this Christmas?
- Are you willing to set aside the wealth and trappings of this world to accept a world with Jesus?
- What is your message of Christmas?
- Are you willing to be counter-cultural and give up the world's view of Christmas to take on a radical approach of the Truth for the season?

NEXT STEPS:

- *Take some time and pray for two things:*
 - *For God to reveal to you where you are being greedy and where He wants you to be generous.*
 - *That as you step out and seek ways to be generous, He would fill you with the real Christmas Spirit.*

Announcement: *Announce the time & location of your next City Group*

Announcement: *Announce the time & location of Sunday's Worship Experience.*