



# the Source

*Let anyone who is thirsty come to me...*

The Grinch (yes, the one to tried to steal Christmas!) was a mean one. No one quite knew why. In Seuss's words:

*It could be his head wasn't screwed on just right.  
It could be perhaps that his shoes were too tight.  
But, I think that the most likely reason of all  
Was that his heart was two sizes too small.*

We know the grumpiness that comes from not getting enough sleep, the crotchiness that comes with the aches and pains of aging, the irritability of being cramped in some way in a space that is simply too small for us. When our space is too small, be it physical, emotional, spiritual, intellectual or social space, we find it hard to express ourselves fully and we feel squeezed out. We become grumpy, grouchy, grinchy.

We learn in Seuss's story what the Bible points to repeatedly. When we hold on too tight; we get smaller. We begin to covet what our neighbors have and we begin to get angry that others seem live the life we want. Like the Grinch, we become jealous of others' happiness. Somehow the Who's happiness made the Grinch feel sad and he didn't like feeling sad. It made him feel small and he didn't like feeling small. It reminded him that he didn't have what they had...traditions, relationships, a spirit of giving.

The saving grace came that when the Grinch found out that Christmas morning that he hadn't take the Who's happiness away at all. The saving grace came when he realized there was something much deeper in them and much deeper in him too.

*And what happened then? Well in Whoville they say  
that the Grinch's small heart grew three sizes that day!*

May we make room around our hearts, so that when our hearts get squeezed and small, we too may find the saving grace that takes away our hearts of stone and gives us hearts for love alone.

Dr. Beverly Jones, Associate Pastor

## A Family Affair

Together, read Ezekiel 36:22-28. This passage explains that God will change our hearts of stone by filling us with the Holy Spirit. God will give us a heart that will help us see others the way He does, with compassion and love. Today in church we looked at Dr. Seuss's classic *The Grinch*. The Grinch does not treat those around him with kindness and respect. Have you ever experienced someone who seems "grinchy", like they have a heart of stone? Having a grinchy heart does not allow us to live with compassion and love for everyone. In the story, the Grinch's heart eventually grows *three sizes*, and lets him see others with a kind heart. With the gift of the Holy Spirit, our heart can grow too, allowing us to see others like God sees them!

Draw a heart on a piece of paper. This heart is God's spirit within you. Draw a second heart around the first heart. This heart is people close to you, family and friends. Finally, draw a third heart, the biggest heart. This heart represents all people in the entire world.

Together, pray for everyone in all three hearts. *Dear Lord, please help us to not have grinchy hearts. Help us to be open to your spirit so that we may see others as you see them. We pray for people near and dear to us as well as those far away. Amen.*

— Tammy Parks, Elementary Coordinator

## Monday: Acts 2:42-47

The early church inherited religious and cultural traditions and they developed new ones of their own. Their pattern of eating together, celebrating the Lord's Supper together, devotion to learning, fellowship and prayer became woven into the church's life.

- What inherited church traditions give you the greatest sense of belong, meaning and joy?
- Have you developed meaningful traditions unique to your family, Sunday School class or other networks of relationship in your life? If so, what are they?
- Are there traditions in which you feel especially included? excluded?

## Tuesday: Philippians 2:1-5

These verses point to our relationship with Christ as the spring from which spirit, purpose and love flow in fellowship with others. The Grinch in Seuss's book suffered from a small, hard heart.

- How does our relationship with Christ, help our hearts to grow in our relationships with others?

## Wednesday: Colossians 3:12-14

This passage of scripture invites us into deeper relationships with others where bearing with each other and forgiveness are necessary.

- In what ways do you dive in or shy away from the things that will lead you in to deeper relationships with others?

## Thursday: Matthew 13:10-15

This passage includes a passage from the prophet Isaiah to exemplify how people's hearts have grown calloused and they have closed their eyes to the way of God.

- How would you define or describe a calloused heart?
- What makes it hard to get through callouses?
- Spiritually speaking, what helps to soften and heal a calloused heart?

## Friday: Matthew 19:13-15

Children are lifted up in this passage as the kind of people who belong in the kingdom of heaven.

- How do children in our midst help to grow our hearts a few sizes larger?

