



**Definition of a curmudgeon:** a crusty, grumpy, cantankerous person who refuses to celebrate.

1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2 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." 3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him... 7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 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." Matthew 2:1-3,7,8 (NIV)

16 When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Matthew 2:16 (NIV)

**Causes of a small heart:**

- A misguided Heart.

We can't love the people we are competing against.

4 Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand. Philippians 2:4 (MSG)

Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:3-4 (ESV)

- A misunderstood Hurt.

Hurts that get ignored become infected, and we become toxic.

3 He heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds. Psalm 147:3 (NLT)

Love like you've never been hurt before.

4 Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins!

5 But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. Isaiah 53:4-5 (NLT)

- A mischievous Hate.

You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! Matthew 5:43-44 (NLT)

If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. 1 John 4:20 (ESV)

We can't live in love with God if we live with hate towards others.

- Live without Love.

**Christmas is about the gift:**

- Jesus came to show us God's love.

"This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God. My dear, dear friends, if God loved us like this, we certainly ought to love each other." 1 John 4:9-11 (MSG)

The greatest experience of God with us is His love to us.

The greatest evidence of God in us is our love to others.

**How to increase your heart size:**

- Love looks to the needs of others.

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty pride, but in humility consider others more important than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:3-4 (NLT)

- Love makes the first move.

19 We love because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19 (NIV)

9 God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him.

10 This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. 1 John 4:9-10 (NLT)

- Love is not distracted.

Long before He laid down earth's foundations, God had us in mind, and settled on us as the focus of His love. Ephesians 1:4 (MSG)

1 Let love be your highest goal! 1 Corinthians 14:1 (NLT)

14 Let all that you do be done in love. 1 Corinthians 16:14 (ESV)

- Love changes us.

16 We know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. 1 John 4:16 (NIV)

24 He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed. 1 Peter 2:24 (NLT)



## TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

**Questions for Connection Groups:**

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- What is your favorite part of the movie - The Grinch? How do people act like the Grinch in today's world? Do you know someone who is a curmudgeon? (Don't point at them)
- How do our hearts become divided and misguided during the Holidays?
- How do misunderstood hurts make us like the Grinch? How did the Grinch ignore his hurts?
- How does hate prevent us from experiencing Christmas?
- How did God look to meet our needs first?
- How did God make the first move toward us? What are some ways we can make the first move to love others?
- How does it make you feel to know that you are the focus of God's love? How do we make love our focus during Christmas?
- How did God's love change you? (Don't ever forget how you've been changed)

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**fresnoquest.com**

OTHER NOTES:

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# WELCOME

Our Series:



Today's Movie..

## "The Grinch"

Get connected! Try out a Connection Group.



Information available in the courtyard.



**The Quest Church**

Doing life together