

Leader's Hints: The Film Description is for you, not to be read to the group because it will spoil the movie. The Discussion Focus should be presented to the group prior to watching the movie so they can know some of what to focus on. Allow the group immediately after the film to give their own casual assessment ("that was great" or "I didn't think it would end that way"). When the personal assessments have died out begin with the discussion questions. The biggest mistake most discussion leaders make is that they do not allow enough silence. Give people time to think it through. Give encouraging words after someone shares but avoid comments that designate their statements as "right" or "wrong". Encourage multiple answers to the same questions. Statements like "That is really insightful, what does someone else think?" encourage others to expand on the answer. Be sure to read through the questions ahead of time and when personal examples are asked for think of one for yourself in case no one responds. When you are willing to share it really encourages others to open up. Be very careful to avoid sending the message to the group that you hold all the answers. The benefit of group discussion comes from the individual struggle to find truth for themselves not in the group landing on consensus. In other words you may end up agreeing to disagree and that is fine. Keep the environment open and non-judgmental, we all come to truth in faith at our own speed. Allow some struggles to remain in the hands of the Holy Spirit. Please always end in a prayer.



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How the Grinch Stole Christmas -1966, UR, Run time 26 min.

Film Description Bitter and hateful, the Grinch is irritated at the thought of the nearby village having a happy time celebrating Christmas. So disguised as Santa Claus, with his dog made to look like a reindeer, he raids the village to steal all the Christmas things. The village is sure to have a sad Christmas this year.

Discussion Focus: Loving those who are difficult to love .

Content Advisory: All good

1. We learn about the type of creature that the Grinch is by the song.

Can anyone remember some of the things the Grinch is called in the song?

You're a foul one, Mr. Grinch

You're a nasty, wasty skunk

Your heart is full of unwashed socks, your soul is full of gunk

Mr. Gri-inch

The three words that best describe you are as follows, and I quote:

Stink, stank, stunk....

You nauseate me, Mr. Grinch

With a nauseous super-naus

You're a crooked jerky jockey, and you drive a crooked hoss,

Mr. Gri-inch! Your soul is an appalling dump-heap, overflowing with the most disgraceful assortment of rubbish imaginable, mangled up in tangled up knots!

2. If they sang songs about tax collectors in the Bible, Zacchaeus's song would sound similar the one sang about the Grinch. Like the Grinch he was focused on taking things away from people around him.

When Jesus sees Zacchaeus, he does not tell him how mean he is or all the thing he does wrong, instead Jesus tells Zacchaeus he wants to hang out with him and spend time at his house. This makes Zacchaeus change into a kind and caring person.

Who acts like Jesus in this story?

3. In the story of Zacchaeus when his heart changes he wants to make right the wrong he did to people in the past. In what way do we see the Grinch responding in the same way?

4. When the Whos wake up and find that all their presents are gone they go out into the town and sing a song.

Welcome, Christmas, bring your cheer. Cheer to all Whos far and near. Christmas Day is in our grasp, so long as we have hands to clasp. Christmas Day will always be just as long as we have we. Welcome Christmas while we stand, heart to heart, and hand in hand.

What does the song say gave the Whos cheer at Christmas?

5. The movie starts out with the following...Every Who down in Whoville liked Christmas a lot, but the Grinch, who lived just north of Whoville - did not. The Grinch hated Christmas - the whole Christmas season. Now, please don't ask why; no one quite knows the reason. It could be, perhaps, that his shoes were too tight. Or it could be that his head wasn't screwed on just right. But I think that the most likely reason of all... may have been that his heart was two sizes too small. But, whatever the reason, his heart or his shoes, he stood there on Christmas Eve hating the Whos.

What can you think of as reasons why some people might feel bad at Christmas time?

6. At the end of the story the Grinch changes in his heart like Zacheaus's heart changed.

And what happened, then? Well, in Whoville they say - that the Grinch's small heart grew three sizes that day. And then - the true meaning of Christmas came through, and the Grinch found the strength of ten Grinches, plus two!

How can the way you act at Christmas time make a change in the heart of someone else?