

The Grinch

WHO TRIED
TO STEAL
CHRISTMAS!



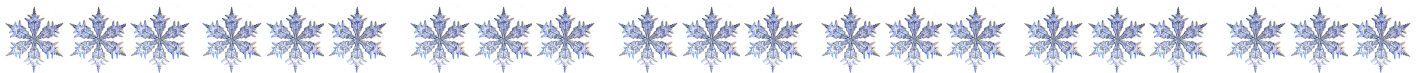
Hello Children's Ministry Leader,

Welcome to the most exciting Christmas curriculum ever! We are happy that you have chosen this series for your children's ministry. On this introduction page you will find helpful information on the who, what, when, where, why, and how long of this series. Like all curriculum, this is designed for you to use the elements that fit best in your ministry and leave out the elements that may not work for you. We believe that you are the greatest decision maker for your ministry. We are just happy to be a part of the great things that God will do as children learn through the eyes of the Grinch what Christmas is all about.

Have Fun,

RealFun Curriculum Team

Making God REAL to children in a FUN way!



Who:

The Presenter: RealFun curriculum presenter is someone who has the ability to connect to children. Depending on your group this can be a volunteer, staff person, or teen leader. This series also welcomes the use of multiple presenters as it offers multiple parts that can be presented by a variety of personalities.

The Audience: "The Grinch" series is designed to be used for elementary children (grades 1 to 5).

What: "The Grinch" curriculum has several elements offered weekly. It offers powerpoint and keynote presentations, videos, teaching aids, and step by step instructions on presentation.

The Big Idea: This is the main point of the weeks lesson. Say it, repeat it, and have the kids do the same.

The Secret Stocking: This stocking is to be hung somewhere visible to the children. This will hold an item that will have something to do with the day's lesson.

Memory Verse Activity: This activity is an interactive way to teach the weeks memory verse. It gets the kids moving and also remembering their verse.

Object Lesson: Every good children's church service has an object lesson. Use this to drive home the Big Idea of the day. This element will probably require a "Wal Mart" run...lol.

Grinchy Game: Games are meant to be fun... so do just that. The games in this series relate to the lesson and are sure to get your children moving and laughing.

Grinch Video Clip (Optional): This is a video clip from "The Grinch" movie. Time notations will be provided where you are to begin the clip and stop the clip. An explanation of the lesson learned is also provided.

Review Game: This is offered in powerpoint or keynote and will again reinforce many of the elements of the service. It is also nice in case "big" church service goes long!

When: "The Grinch" is designed to be offered weekly in a children's church setting and can range from a 45 to 60 minute presentation.

Where: "The Grinch" presentation is found most effective in an area that offers projection/ video capabilities.

Why: "The Grinch" takes the pop culture behind the idea of the Christmas grinch and connects it to the gospel story of Jesus and a manger. If we are able to facilitate growing interest in the heart of a child then, we will be able to interest them in growing in Jesus.

How Long: "The Grinch" weekly service is designed to be from sixty to ninety minutes in length.



the **BIG** idea



Christmas is more than Gifts and Giving

What you need:

- Small wrapped box for the Secret Stocking
- Larger Present to hold while talking about the Big Idea (optional)

What it is : The Big Idea is used from beginning to end in the service. Each element of the service should be opened with “what’s the big idea?” and allow the children to repeat it back. The more you use the big idea and more it is said by leaders and children the greater the chance for the children to retain what they have learned in the service.

What you say: How many of you like the getting gifts at Christmas? How many of you like to give to others at Christmas? (allow answers or a show of hands) Today we will learn while gifts and giving are a great part of the Christmas season... they are not the meaning of the season or the meaning of Christmas. Our Big Idea today is Christmas is more than Gifts and Giving. (Put the Big Idea slide up at this time) I am going to ask you a question and i want you to answer this question as loud as you can! Get Ready... What is the Big Idea?
--Repeat this until you feel like the children have a good handle on it for the rest of the service.--

Refer back to the BIG idea often thru the service to remind the children what the lesson is about.

The **Secret Stocking**



What you do: Go over to the secret stocking and take out a small wrapped present. If you build up the suspense by taunting the kids it will build up the item more and more each week. As your group gets used to the secret stocking they will look forward to what the item is. The Big Idea and the Secret Stocking are almost always tied together.



Memory Verse

They opened their treasures and presented him with gifts.
Matthew 2:11

What you need:

- White Board
- Dry Erase Marker & Eraser
- Copy of memory verse handy as well as on the screen

What it is : The memory verse and the activity is designed to do two things: 1. To give you the opportunity to tie in our modern day traditions to its Biblical origins, 2. To get the kids moving and learning at the same time. Take this portion of the service to ensure that the children will memorize the weeks verse and understand what it means to them.

What you say & do: **Read the verse.** This verse talks about the some of the smartest men who ever lived. While Jesus was still very small they came from a kingdom far away to give him their very best gifts. Today we give gifts based on this first Christmas tradition found in God's Word. I think it will help us to remember Jesus if we learn this verse. I have a fun activity for us today to help learn this verse. First let's repeat the verse together a couple of time out loud. **Say the memory verse and have the children repeat it as you go along. Do this a few times until you think the children have a good handle on it. Write the verse on the whiteboard and pick two children to come and play.** *The rules are: 1. children have 10 seconds to study the verse, 2. children then turn away so they cannot see the whiteboard or what you are doing, 3. the game leader will then erase a word, 4. children turn around on the game leaders cue and the first one to call out the missing word wins that round, 5. repeat until the whole verse is gone and the children are reciting the whole thing.* For added difficulty you can erase punctuation or more than one word at a time. Have fun! **Say the verse together one more time before moving on.**

Memory Verse Activity



Grinch Movie Clip

Clip in the Whoville Mail room
Chapter Name: Cindy Lou's Saviour
Time: 9:05 to 13:52

What you need:

- Dr. Suess: How the Grinch stole Christmas.

What it is : Every week this is the one thing that ties the Grinch in with this Christmas series. Build up to this through the beginning of the service and use it as a reference point throughout the rest of the service.

What you say & do: Well that was quite a ruckus in that mail room, huh? We all know that the Grinch hates Christmas and it looks like he doesn't like the gifts and the giving either. But, he was giving gifts wasn't he; what gifts was he giving to people? (kids respond) Yes all bad things like jury duty and eviction notices, I am sure glad that the Grinch is make-believe. What we can see from this clip is that if Christmas was just about gifts and giving then someone like the Grinch could mess it up couldn't they? Someone even in our own family or one of our friends might not be able to give a gift. Does that make Christmas any less special? (kids respond) That's right, no it doesn't. That is because Christmas is more than gifts and giving. **Hold your hand over your ear.** What is our Big Idea? (kids respond)

Did you see how the Grinch wrapped Cindy Lou Who in wrapping paper? That looked like fun. Let's try it... that is today's grinchy game.



Week One

Grinchy Game

1. What you say as you teach this is in regular font.
2. **What you do is in bold.**

This one is more fun but takes more material.

You can pick two children for this if you would rather. Sometimes the children need to see their leaders having fun too.



Wrap & Unwrap Game Variation One

What you need:

- Rolls of Wrapping Paper
- Scotch tape dispensers

(amount of rolls and tape is based on how many time you want to play it and how many kids you want to participate)

- Shoe Boxes (variation one)
- Two children per team (boys vs. the girls if possible)

What it is : Game time is meant to be fun. Allow the kids to get loud as they cheer on their team for this part of your service.

What you say & **do**: How many of you guys love to open presents? (kids react) **Pick two children, these will be your unwrappers.** How many of you know how to wrap presents? **Pick two children, these will be your wrappers.**

Okay, now that we have our teams lets go over the rules:

Rule # 1 *Wrapping*- Your entire box must be completely covered with wrapping paper, when you are done bring it to the judge for review and then you will be allowed to give the box to your partner.

Rule # 2 *Unwrapping*- Your must remove ALL wrapping paper from your box, when you are done bring it to the judge for review and we will declare your team the winners.

Game Variation Two

What you need:

- Rolls of Wrapping Paper
- Scotch tape dispensers

(amount of rolls and tape is based on how many time you want to play it and how many kids you want to participate)

- Three children per team (boys vs. the girls if possible)

What it is : Same as variation one

What you say & **do**: How many of you guys love to open presents? (kids react) **Pick two children, these will be your unwrappers.** How many of you know how to wrap presents? **Pick two children, these will be your wrappers.**

Pick two of your volunteers, I believe these two volunteers are gifts to us in this ministry. Okay, now that we have our teams lets go over the rules:

Rule # 1 *The Wrappee*- It is important that the wrappee try to stay still. They are not allowed to help the wrapper or the unwrapper in any way.

Rule # 2 *Wrapping*- Your team member must be completely covered, except their head, with wrapping paper, when you are done the judge will review your team member and then your unwrapper will be allowed to begin unwrapping.

Rule # 3 *Unwrapping*- Your must remove ALL wrapping paper from your team member. The judge will review your team member and we will declare your team the winners.

Object Lesson

What's in the box?

What you need:

- Large wrapped box with card that says "From: God/ To: All People"
- Lots of tissue paper in the box with names of specific gifts that children in your church may receive for Christmas written on each one
 - some examples of what to write: toys, games, ps3, xbox 360, nintendo wii, computer, vacation, bike, etc.
- Light bulb

What it is : The object lesson is simply a lesson with an object (deep stuff right). The goal of every object lesson is to grab the children's attention to the item with a hint of mystery. As the children wonder how it is all going to tie together you can present the lesson of the day in a fresh memorable way.

What you say & **do**: Check out this huge box. It has got to have something awesome in it. Let's read the card and see who it is for. Well, it says here that it is from God and it is to All people. Maybe we shouldn't open it (let the kids react). Well we can't open it because "all people" aren't here. Do you think we should wait for everyone to get here? (kids react) Alright, if I open it and show to all of us then you have to promise to tell everyone you know about this gift. I sure don't want to get in trouble with God. Here we go **start opening the box then stop and say** wait are you guys sure you want to know what is in here? (kids react) Are you sure your sure? (kids react). **Open box and pull out one by one the tissue paper (about half of it) every paper you pull out read it out loud and ask the children if they would like to get that item for a gift or if they have gotten that before.** Wow, there sure is a lot of tissue in here. I don't think there is any real gift. **(repeat above until you get to the bottom).** **Take out the light bulb and hold it for the children to see.** Look its a light bulb. What does this represent? (allow some answers). Jesus came into the earth as a gift from God to us and in John 8:12 Jesus says that He is the light of the world. Sounds like the grinch could use some of this light, huh? Well boys and girls you promised to tell "all people" about this gift because that is who the gift is for.

1. What you say as you teach this is in regular font.
2. What you do is in bold.



Bible Story

It is suggested that during this portion you read this passage from the Bible on your projection system or by using your Bible in front of the children. This is done to reinforce that The Bible is God's Word. When the children see us using it during our teaching of the message it will encourage them to read it on their own.



The Wisest Men Matthew 2:1-12

What you need:

- Bible Text offered below

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 in the east and have come to worship him."

3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. 5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

*6" '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 be the shepherd of my people Israel."*

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 make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 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 and of incense and of myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. (NIV)

What it is : The Bible Story Portion of the lesson is meant to bring all the teaching tools together to show that everything that is being taught and discussed has a basis in scripture. Without scripture there would be nothing useful to say. Children need to know that the Bible has all the answers they need. It is up to us to show them how to find those answers.

What you say: Can you believe this is a true story? (kidz react) It is! If it is in the Bible then it is TRUE! Can you say that with me? I will say "If its in the Bible" then you say "its TRUE! Let's try it (do this several times and every time you discuss the Bible story for emphasis). We see that gifts and giving started at the very first Christmas. Even more important than that is that Jesus was God's gift to the world (John 3:16). You have a chance today to give back to Jesus. How many of you would like to give Jesus a gift? (kids react) You can commit your life to Him right now as a gift. Jesus can use you to take his gift of salvation to those that need him. Who would like to pray for these things? (Altar and Prayer time here)

Week One Schedule

Time: 5 min

Time: 5-10 min

Time: 10-15 min

Time: 5-10 min

Time: 10-15 min

Time: 5 min

Time: 5-10 min

Time: 10 min

Time: 5-10 min

Time: TBD

Time: As needed

Welcome and Opening Prayer

the BIG idea: Christmas is more than Gifts and Giving

The Secret Stocking: Small Gift Box

Praise and Worship: Insert your own praise and worship

Offering and Visitors: Take Offering and greet visitors

Memory Verse: Teach Memory Verse and do Memory Verse Activity

The Grinch movie clip: Play movie clip

Grinchy Game: Play Grinchy Game here

Object Lesson: Present the Object Lesson

Bible Story and Message: Present the Bible Story

Prayer and Altar: Use this time to allow the children to respond to what they have learned.

Review Game: Use Review Game provided in Week One.