

## Royal Redeemer Going Deeper Guide

Based on the sermon for December 8, 2024  
CHRISTMAS CLASSICS: How the Grinch Stole Christmas



For personal reflection or for use as a devotion with a CGS Community or family

- **Begin by reflecting on/sharing a high and/or a low from your week**
- **CONNECT** *with each other*
  - Share a favorite Christmas classic of yours.
- **GROW** *in Christ (Read the following scripture from Luke 3: 1-6)*

### John the Baptist Prepares the Way

3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Tracōnitis and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—<sup>2</sup> during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.<sup>3</sup> He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.<sup>4</sup> As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth.<sup>6</sup> And all people will see God’s salvation.”

- Share any words or phrases that speak into your life today.
  - In addition to Isaiah’s prophesy referenced in Luke 3 verse 4, Malachi prophesied in chapter 3 verse 1, “<sup>1</sup> I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me... says the Lord Almighty.” How did John the Baptist prepare the way for Jesus (see Luke 3 verse 3). What does this tell us of the importance of repentance in getting ready for Jesus’ advent?
  - The first few theses of Martin Luther’s 95 Theses develops the idea of repentance as the Christian’s inner struggle with sin rather than the external system of sacramental confession, like indulgences. In his first thesis, he argues that when Jesus said repent, “He willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.” How would you describe a life of repentance?
  - Repentance is not something that we initiate, it’s a work of God in which the Holy Spirit works within the believer to convict us of sin, give us remorse and provide the strength to change our ways. How might this support the statement that “Repentance is not something we have to do to be saved, but something we get to do because we are saved.”
  - How does this “Life of repentance” concept help give us hope when we commit the same sin again?
  - In the animated Christmas Classic film, “How the Grinch Stole Christmas”, the grinch clearly repented and changed his ways toward the Whos and Christmas, in light of the need for a “Life of Repentance” do you think that the Grinch would ever need to repent again?
- **SERVE** *others*

Who might God want you to share the truth about a “Life of Repentance” with? Look for opportunities and do that!

- **End with Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, or a short Blessing**