



UNGRINCHED:

Size One

JOHN 3:16

Week 2 of 4

Review: Everyone's a Grinch

We harbor **envy** & behave **selfishly**.

These are symptoms and causes of a too-small heart. // But there's hope (clip)

The "true meaning of Christmas"

enlarges even the smallest heart.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

We are as guilty as a Grinch!

Without "gave his only son" there is no "have eternal life"

Think of something you hate about this world... have you ever been guilty of that?

JESUS: But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment... anyone who says, "You fool!" will be in danger of the fire of hell.

Matthew 5:22

We are all guilty of the kind of attitudes that make for too-small hearts, but the message of Christmas is that whoever believes in him... and it all begins with, God so loved.

But God "**L o v e s**" Us

We deal with this concept too tritely.

Our ideas about God's love are **weak**

because our ideas of **love** are weak.

ILL: THINGS I LOVE // WHY DON'T YOU MARRY IT // GOD SO LOVED HIS COFFEE...

The best English word for this love is **compassion**.

Compassion is when **empathy** motivates a deep **desire** for the **sufferings** of another to be alleviated.

At the core of the Christmas story is God's compassion for you, but there's a deeper message in John 3:16... God so loved ME?? What's written is "the world!"

God Loves "**T h e m**"

God does not discriminate. // middle class, poor, AIDS babies, Mumbai, terrorists!
God shows no favoritism.

Enlarging my heart starts with **compassion**.

Three Ways to Build Compassion

- ▶ Seek to **understand** the problems of others.

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are---yet was without sin.

Hebrews 4:15

The meaning of the incarnation is God would identify with us in every way possible.

- ▶ Relax your sense of "**righteousness**."

...he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

Psalm 103:10

ILL: I want to give some people lumps of coal in their stockings!
"righteousness" objectifies people.

- ▶ Don't quench what comes **naturally**.

COMPASSION ACTUALLY COMES NATURALLY TO US.
Grinch and Cindy Lu Who.

ILL: Katie sad about her friend's parents' divorce.

Psalm 103

Communion: an opportunity today to receive his compassion.