



## ADVENT SERMON SERIES

# THE \_\_\_\_\_ THAT STOLE CHRISTMAS

WORKING AT HAVING A BIG HEART

## Garbage

*Each year at Christmas season, there are a million reminders that it is supposed to be a season of joy, but what if it isn't? Sometimes, things get in our way and steal the joy of the Christmas season.*

- Circle Time: What was the worst gift you ever received for Christmas?
- What are some of the really unhealthy messages from the world about Christmas?
  - How have your children or other family members been affected by these messages?
  - How did you handle that situation?
- Read Matthew 2:1-12
  - King Herod is the antithesis of the magi in this story. Compare and contrast their actions.
  - What worldly messages do you think motivated King Herod? What were the consequences?
  - What messages do you think motivated the Magi's actions?
  - How do you see unhealthy "garbage" messages affecting our society?
  - After learning about the magi's actions how do we spread our Godly message in our world?
- Pastor Dave taught us that there are three ways we can protect ourselves from worldly garbage.
  - 1. Guard your heart.
    - Read Philippians 4:8
    - How do you guard your heart?
  - 2. Don't allow unhealthy comments and thoughts to continue.
    - Read 2 Corinthians 10:4
    - What is the difference between God's mighty weapon and worldly weapons? *Think about what happened when Peter tried to defend Jesus with a sword the night he was arrested.*
  - 3. Practice Discernment
    - Read Proverbs 15:1
    - What are some other ways you can think of to protect yourself from the garbage of the world?