

THE _____ THAT STOLE CHRISTMAS

WORKING AT HAVING A BIG HEART



The Trimmings that Stole Christmas

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.

- What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
- Circle Time: What is the one thing that has to be there or Christmas just wouldn't be the same for you?
 - What makes this thing, or food, or tradition, or whatever it is so important to you?
 - Does everyone else in your family place the same level of importance on this thing as you? Why or why not?
 - What if you could no longer have this thing at Christmas time again? How would that affect you?
- Christmas is one of those odd holidays that is Christian in purpose. "Christ" is in the name of the holiday. But EVERYONE celebrates it whether they are Christian or not. What affect has this had on what people are celebrating during this time? *The celebration becomes about the "trimmings"*.
 - What are the trimmings of Christmas? Make a list. *Presents, Tree, etc.*
 - How do you as a family make sure the trimmings don't dominate the gospel at Christmastime?
- Read John 1:1-14.
 - We know the cliché, "Jesus is the reason for the season". But let's dig a little deeper than that... What is Christmas really about?
 - The Greek name given for Jesus in these passages is *Logos*. *Logos* is defined as the Word of God of creative order. What attributes of Jesus become apparent when you understand Jesus as *Logos*?
 - What is the purpose of the Word becoming flesh? What does John say is Jesus bringing into the world? How is this different or the same as what Jesus was doing at creation?
 - V.11 "His own did not receive Him" ... What are some things about Christmas that can distract our worship away from Christ? What can sometimes receive our worship instead?
 - According to what we read in these passages is Jesus entrance into our lives dependent on our acceptance of him? Why or why not?
- What are some patterns you've established to show the world what we are really celebrating at Christmas time?
 - What are some ways our church tries to shine the light of life in our world during the Christmas season?
 - What are some ways that you as a group can shine the light of life in our world this Christmas?