

Week 4

Theme: Peace

Movie: The Muppet Christmas Carol

Bible Verse:

Isaiah 9:6 – A child is born to us, a son is given to us, and authority will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.



This week we will explore peace through The Muppet Christmas Carol. Along the way we will find that peace isn't necessarily about being "nice and quiet." There is an outer peace and an inner peace that only come when we do as Micah 6:8 would remind us – do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly.

Note: Unlike the first three "movies" which are really 30-minute television specials, The Muppet Christmas Carol is a full-length movie (86 minutes).

Talking Points:

- Like Professor Hinkle and the Grinch, Ebenezer Scrooge is the "bad guy" in this Christmas movie. Both of those other characters experienced change. I wonder what will happen with Scrooge.
- In the opening song, we learn about Scrooge that "He never gives. He only takes." Scrooge has way more wealth than he could spend in a lifetime, while so many others go without enough food or the warmth of a home. It is hard to find peace on the inside or the outside when so many suffer unjustly.
- He has nothing good to say about Christmas and refuses to give to charity.

The Ghost of Christmas Past [*Consider pausing right after the visit from the Ghost of Christmas Past ends to discuss the following.*]

- Fozzywig tells Scrooge, "Stop working. Enjoy yourself."
- There is a peace that comes when you realize that you are a person of worth, not because of what you do, or how much you make, but because of

who you are – a child of God.

- You don't have to earn God's love. You don't have to deserve Christmas.
- From time to time, stop, rest, play, and find peace knowing that God loves you no matter what.

[Continue movie.]

The Ghost of Christmas Present – [Consider pausing right after the visit from the Ghost of Christmas Present ends to discuss the following.]

- At this point, we already see Scrooge warming up, even smiling and telling a joke.
- They look in on Bob Cratchit's house. What do Bob and Tiny Tim do when they mention Scrooge? They toast Scrooge as the "Founder of the Feast." Even though Bob Cratchit gets paid so little, he is still grateful and kind.
- This is a real turning point for Scrooge. We see the glimmer of the possibility of healing and reconciliation.

[Continue movie to the end.]

The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come (Future) –

- We learn that Scrooge dies with no friends and having never made a positive difference in the lives of those around.
- He dies rich, but completely empty.

After-Movie Discussion:

- When we see Scrooge on Christmas morning, what has changed? He realizes there is a chance for healing and for reconciliation.
- We learn from Charles Dickens (Gonzo) that "What made Scrooge happiest of all was that his life lay before him, and it could be changed!"
- What are some of the things he does that show us he has changed?

[examples below]

He speaks kindly to others, wishing them Merry Christmas.

He donates to the charity he had refused the day before.

He receives a scarf for his donation, and accepts it with real gratitude.

He sings.

He leaves gifts for his workers.

He brings gifts to his nephew Fred and Fred's wife.

He brings gifts to his old mentors.

He buys food for the needy.

He brings cheese to the mice (mouses).

He surprises the Cratchit Family with a feast, gifts, and gives Bob a raise.

- One thing we can't change is the past. But we can change what we do today and throughout our life when we choose to live a life of hope, love, joy, and peace.

Prayer:

Loving God,

We choose to live in hope,

In love,

In joy,

In peace.

God bless us everyone.

Amen.

This family video series by Mark Burrows is a part of the Worship Design series, "I Believe When..." created by Dr. Marcia McFee.