Date: 12/15/18

Title: Herod the Grinch (Adapted from Sermons4kids.com)

Theme: Don’t be a grinch, let Jesus give you and new heart.

Object: Picture of the book or movie *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*

Text: Matthew 2:13 (NKJV) 13Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.”

How many have ever read the book or seen the movie of “How the Grinch Stole Christmas?”

Here’s a picture of the Grinch. [Show picture.]

And what’s he doing? He’s stealing a Christmas tree from someone in Who-ville.

Now everyone in Who-ville loved Christmas, because it was such a joyful time.

But the Grinch hated Christmas, so he made up a plan to ruin the joy of Christmas in Who-ville.

His plan was to dress up like Santa Claus and go into Who-ville at night and steal all of their Christmas presents, all of their Christmas decorations, and even the food for their Christmas dinner.

Do you know why the Grinch hated Christmas so much?

Well, according to the story, it was because his heart was too small! (2 sizes too small!)

He was so selfish that he hated to see anyone else who was happy and enjoying themselves.

But, as you know, the Grinch's plan did not work.

Why? Because the people in Who-ville knew that the real joy of Christmas does not come from the presents, decorations, and food -- it comes from a heart filled with love.

The story of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" is not a true story, but this morning I want to tell you a true story of another "Grinch" who **tried** to steal Christmas.

In fact, he tried to steal the very first Christmas.

This "Grinch" was a king by the name of Herod the Great. We’ll call him “Herod the Grinch.”

After Jesus was born, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and asked where they could find the child who had been born to be the king of the Jews. They said, "We have seen his star in the sky and want to worship him." When Herod the Grinch heard about this, he told the wise men that when they found the child, they should come back and tell him where the child was so that he could worship him too. That was a lie.

The truth is, Herod the Grinch didn't really want to worship Jesus, he wanted to kill him.

Why? Because Herod the Grinch’s heart was too small!

Herod the Grinch was so selfish that he was afraid Jesus would become more popular than he was and take over his kingdom.

Well, Herod's plan to kill Jesus didn't work. After the wise men found Jesus and gave him gifts, an angel told them about Herod's plan and they went back home without telling Herod where they had found Jesus. An angel also appeared to Joseph and warned him of Herod's plan and told him to take Mary and the baby Jesus to Egypt where they would be safe.

You know what’s sad about this story?

Herod the Grinch was trying to kill the very one who could give him a bigger heart.

Herod needed a new heart, and Jesus is in the business of giving people new hearts.

He can take our tiny, little, selfish, stone-cold heart and make it a big soft warm heart that loves God and loves other people.

Herod the Grinch needed Jesus to give him a bigger heart.

What about us? We don’t want to be grinches do we?

Would you like Jesus to give you a bigger heart?

Let’s ask Jesus to give us a bigger heart that will love God most of all and love others as ourselves.

