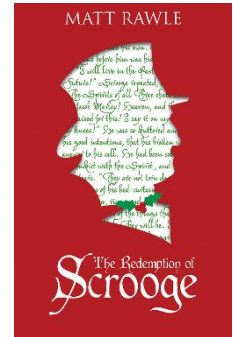


The Redemption of Scrooge

By: Matt Rawle
Week 2



OPENING PRAYER

God of the past, bless our time together as we reflect on our memories and on the wisdom of those who came before us. As we tell our stories, let us be mindful of how our stories are part of your story and open our minds so that we may learn from others' stories. In the name of Christ, who came to us in the past as a baby in Bethlehem. Amen.

CHRISTMAS PAST

Think of your earliest Christmas memories.

- What, if anything, is special or significant about these early memories? _____

- Why do you think you are able to retain them after so many years? _____

- Why are memories important? What can we learn from them? _____

YOUR CELEBRATION

Everyone celebrates Christmas in their own way. Think about how you celebrate.

- How has your celebration of Christmas changed throughout your life? How has the meaning of the holiday changed for you? _____

- How has Christ influenced your past Christmas celebrations? _____

VIDEO STUDY AND DISCUSSION

Matt Rawle, in *The Redemption of Scrooge*, discusses how Ebenezer Scrooge had forgotten his own story. He'd lost sight of the memories that had shaped him when he was younger. When the Ghost of Christmas Past showed Scrooge events from his childhood, Scrooge was able to piece his story back together and reclaim some of the identity he'd lost.

- What memories help define who you are today? _____

When Scrooge saw Mr. and Mrs. Fezziwig twirling around the dance floor it brought him great joy. The Ghost of Christmas past then reminds Scrooge that all of this joy was brought to him by "...but a few pounds of your mortal money: three or four perhaps."

- What are some of the things that bring you joy but cost nothing (or close to nothing)? _____

- This scene helped Scrooge to see that what brings real joy are relationships. Who has brought great joy to your life simply by their presence? _____

RELATING THE STORY TO SCRIPTURE

Ecclesiastes 5:10 says, "If you love money, you will never be satisfied; if you long to be rich, you will never get all you want."

- How did Scrooge's "love of money" keep him from being satisfied? _____

- What did Scrooge's obsession with gaining more and more wealth cost him? _____

Luke 16:19-31 - "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. 20 At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores 21 and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. 24 So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

25 "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. 26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

27 "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, 28 for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

