

# MIRACLE ON 34<sup>TH</sup> STREET

A NEW SERMON ABOUT A  
CHRISTMAS CLASSIC

## SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

November 26, 2023

“Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street”



### OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, how grateful we are to you for Christmas. This Christmas, help us to turn away from materialism and look at the generosity that you demonstrated for us and to let us be servants. Help us O Lord, to put our trust in you in the things that we may not be able to explain, but are the intangibles that are the most important in life. And finally, O God, we pray that you would help us to be your hands, your feet, and your voice. In your Holy Name we pray. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

#### Matthew 20:26 (NIV)

*“Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.”*

#### Matthew 20:28 (NIV)

*“just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

#### Matthew 22:39 (NIV)

*“And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself’”*

#### Matthew 7:12 (NIV)

*“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”*

#### Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)

*<sup>3</sup>Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup>not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*

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## INTRODUCTION

*Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street* is a 1947 American Christmas comedy/drama movie. The movie is about a man named Kris Kringle who is hired to be the Santa Claus at Macy's flagship store on 34<sup>th</sup> Street in New York City. The film deals with three big ideas: the commercialization of Christmas, faith and doubt, and the providence of God.

Here is what we learn from the movie about our own spiritual journeys:

First, an antidote for the commercialization of Christmas is sharing your resources with those in need. When we focus on helping others, we find more joy than if we get another sweater we don't need. Second, all of us have doubts. But when we begin to trust in God, even the things about God that are not logical, love begins to live in and through us. Finally, the primary way God works in the world is through people. He calls each of us to become modern day St. Nicholases who change the world.

## QUESTIONS

1. Have you seen the movie *Miracle on 34th Street*? What are your thoughts about the movie?
2. One of the struggles that the movie *Miracle on 34th Street* deals with is the commercialization of Christmas. What can you do to avoid the commercialization of Christmas and focus on the true meaning of Christmas?
3. In *Miracle on 34th Street*, it's said “when customers are unable to find the products that they want at Macy's, Kris Kringle tells customers where to find items at other stores.” What do you think about this? Discuss.
4. In *Miracle on 34th Street* we met little Susan Walker, whose mother had told her it was foolish to believe in Santa. But Susan exclaimed: “I believe... I believe... even though it's silly, I believe.” Are there faith issues that leave you with serious struggles to believe today?
5. In the sermon, Pastor Eric said “the primary way God works in the world is through people.” Do you agree or disagree? What are the implications for us as Jesus followers?

## FINAL APPLICATION

What is one thing you can do this Christmas season to be a real-life St. Nicholas for someone? How can this group help?