

# FAMILY DEVOTION

*The Lorax* tells a story about how our decisions impact not just ourselves but other people, our family and friends, and even our world. This is a wonderful lesson for our children—and even for ourselves—to learn in a fun, yet meaningful way.

As an adult, I relate, and maybe you do too, to the Once-ler. He is the inventor of the *thneed*, who makes the decision to chop down the trees for the opportunity to make money and be respected as an inventor. This comes with warnings from the Lorax, who draws his attention to the impact it will have on others. The Once-ler knows it's not a good thing, but in the decisive moment of the story, he chooses to go ahead. In the song "*How Bad Can I Be?*" he rationalizes his poor decision, calling on survival of the fittest and economics to quiet his guilt.

By the end of the movie, the Once-ler truly and wholeheartedly regrets his actions. In seeing the effects of his choices, he is humbled and opens himself to the message of the Lorax. He then has a beautiful reconciliation at the end with the Lorax and gets to atone for what he has done. It is a moving scene and really speaks to the joy and peace one can feel when experiencing reconciliation.

It can be difficult living with regret or shame over decisions made in the past. They may have seemed right and justified then, but today all you know is the weight and consequence of those actions.

But the good news for us is that we can find peace and relief from our guilt in Jesus. He offers us mercy and grace. Mercy is not receiving what we deserve—the punishment for our poor decisions. Grace is receiving what we don't deserve—God's love and acceptance. We can't change the past, but we can live in a future that is set free from it. God offers us forgiveness through Jesus, and it makes all the difference in our world.

So, may you be inspired by the Once-ler not to hold on to your guilt and shame. May you receive God's mercy and grace through Jesus' act of love for you. It's a message that we all need to hear, even if it comes from the strangest of people—a short, orange Lorax.

**Curious to learn more about God's grace?  
Join us for worship Sundays from 9am,  
or contact the church for a chat anytime.  
– Pastor Nick Mullen**



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of PEACE  
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