

Once Upon a Time...

ONCE UPON A TIME

Pull up a chair as we settle into a series on the parables of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke. These particular parables are moral, as compared to the prophetic or eschatological ones in Matthew's gospel. Jesus uses these ethical stories to equip His disciples and teach the crowds that followed. His parables are meant to be convicting and prick our hearts. These parables are a mirror to expose our shortcomings. We can see our flaws and imperfections. So, whenever Jesus says, "Once upon a time..." we're in trouble. His parables will provide a mirror to our own hearts.

Pastor Jay Haugh

Pursue God

Immersed in Scripture

We desire to pursue God in order to learn more about who He is and what He is doing among His people.

Through this guide, we pursue God in the study of His Word, prayer and community.

As we pursue God together, let's focus on the spiritual discipline of Meditation.

"We should stop to reflect and to treasure the words, to turn them over and over in our minds, repeating them until the truth which they contain trickles from our head into our hearts." Joyce Huggett

Meditate on these two verses 1 Thessalonians 2:8 and Luke 10:27.

Pursue Others

Engage One Another & Our Community

God has enlisted His people to love, serve and reach those who have not yet submitted their lives to Him.

A small group willing to embrace this call takes intentionality. If you haven't yet, find a group where you can be known, encouraged and challenged to love God and pursue others in your neighborhood. It's in our small groups where we best learn and grow in our faith. Let's encourage one another to step out with courage and generosity.

We encourage your group to spend some time allowing people to share what they learned from God's Word in their own personal time. In addition, spend time sharing what God is teaching you through our "Once Upon a Time" series. Encourage one another to step out with courage and generosity.

Practice His Ways

Adopt the Lifestyle

As disciples of Jesus, we desire to live and look like Jesus. In our current culture, this can be difficult and confusing, but Jesus promises "my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:30) There is something about practicing and submitting ourselves to Jesus that awakens compassion for those who are far from Him. Join with others in their pursuit and practice in order to live the lifestyle of Jesus.

We are continuing our journey of becoming a 2.8 Neighbor: Missional Outposts. Grab one of those new 2:8 clings and put it on your home / office / car, then live it out. Below are some simple steps you can take. Let's make the neighborhoods that New Covenant family members live in the best in town.

Step 1: Check with your small group. Make sure everyone in your group is cleaned up & stable - check for emotional needs too. Work as a team to address any remaining needs.

Step 2: Check on the neighbors on all sides of each home surrounding your small group - everybody good there? If not, work as a team to get them straightened out.

Step 3: Start working through the neighborhoods where each of you lives. Knock on doors. Identify needs. Address them as you can.

Resources: Need extra help with a big job? Contact Andrew Boone at Andrew.Boone@ncbc.church for assistance.

Most of all: Don't be done when the work is done - use the work to establish new relationships, then maintain them!

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Message 5: The Lost Things

Luke 15:1-32

Sunday, October 18, 2020

Big Idea: God is personally invested in seeking out the lost and joyfully reconciling them to Himself at His own expense.

1. Do you find yourself leaning more toward the self-indulgent younger brother or the self-righteous older brother?
2. Has there been a time in your life when God said to you: "I'm going to befriend them so they feel my love in addition to hearing my message of restoration." Share that with your group along with what it was like to be in that space with God.
3. What does it mean to be an agent of restoration? In what ways can we live that out or begin to develop that skill?
4. What keeps you from joining Jesus in the pursuit of those who are lost?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 out loud. Go around your group and share one or two words that stood out to you. Read it again, slowly, meditatively, asking God to illuminate the lost around you and ways you can be an agent of reconciliation. Share again what God stirs in you.