

# 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](mailto: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!

## ONCE UPON A TIME

### Message 4: The Unjust Steward

Luke 16:1-13

Sunday, October 11, 2020

**Big Idea:** The wise give what they cannot keep, to gain what we cannot lose.

1. Share a time in your group when you used something bad in an attempt to teach something good. How did that turn out?
2. How does Jesus use this dishonest manager to teach a good truth?
3. Discuss with your group how you view wealth. Consider some of the following to help your discussion: How do you define wealth? Do you view wealth as good or bad? Is money a private or public topic? Do you and your partner have separate or joint accounts? Why? Can you ever have enough wealth?
4. In Luke 16:9, Jesus said, "Use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings." In what ways can one use worldly wealth to gain friends? To use it for something good? To use it for gospel conversations? Which of these ideas do you want to begin practicing?
5. The wise give what they cannot keep, to gain what they cannot lose. As you have reflected on this passage and Jay's message, what has God brought to mind as something you may need to give?