

Community Group Leader Guide

For the Week Of December 10, 2023

Sermon Series: Once Upon a Time wk 2

Watch the Leader Video and find all your resources online at

<https://clifec.com/community-group-resources/>

Need to watch the sermon? Check out our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@CommunityLifeChurch>

Announcements:

Comfort and Joy Service

Join us on December 14th at 7 pm for our annual bereavement service, offering hope and solace during the holiday season. <https://clifec.com/comfortandjoy>

Christmas Eve Service Invitations

Encourage your group members to invite friends and family to our Christmas Eve services. Share the link clifec.com/christmas/ or distribute invite cards available at all campuses.

Icebreaker:

1. Christmas is right around the corner! What gift are you hoping is under the tree this year? What gift are you excited to give this year?

Quick Review:

We're in the second week of our series titled 'Once upon a time,' and we're taking a look at Mark's account of Jesus' beginnings.

Our journey began with Matthew's Gospel establishing Jesus' legal and royal lineage, but in Mark's account, we get right into the action, beginning with the baptism of Jesus and the beginning of his public ministry. Mark's Gospel emphasizes Jesus as the "Son of Man," highlighting His humanity and His choice to forgo glory for service.

Make It Personal:

1. Mark 1 begins with the baptism of Christ. What were the circumstances surrounding your baptism? Talk about the day you were baptized and what that moment meant to you.

2. The picture that Mark 1 paints of Jesus is of a man with his sleeves rolled up serving the powerless around him. Recall a time together when you felt powerless, but God was mighty to save you.

Go Deeper:

1. Look over Mark chapter 1 together. Why do you think Mark begins Jesus' story with the introduction of John the Baptist and the beginning of Jesus' public ministry? Why not start it at the birth of Christ?

2. Make note of 'what' and 'who' Jesus makes time for throughout Mark 1. What character qualities do you notice in Jesus throughout the passage?

Action Steps:

1. Make simple choices to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Perhaps it's baptism, service, praying, or helping someone in need.

2. Mark 1 shows Jesus breaking away from the crowds to spend time with the Father. Emulate that attitude by establishing your quiet time with God as we make our way toward 2024. It's a great time to do it, with 21 days of prayer beginning in January!

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for opportunities to show the love, service, and generosity of Christ this season — and that God would give you the courage to act on those opportunities once He gives them to you.

2. Continue praying for those in need during this holiday season. Share needs that you are aware of with your group and then pray together about them.

Feel free to use this guide to facilitate discussion in your community group. Modify the questions as you see fit.