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**Once Upon  
a Time...**

# Once Upon a Time...

**the modern impact of ancient stories**

# PARABLE:

*an earthly story*

*with a heavenly meaning*

Once Upon  
a Time...

Now after John was arrested,  
Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming  
the gospel of God, and saying,  
“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God  
is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Once Upon  
a Time...

Mark 1:14-15 (ESV)

# THE KINGDOM OF GOD:

## *God's kingly rule*

Once Upon  
a Time...

And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

Once Upon  
a Time...

Mark 4:26-29 (ESV)

And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

Once Upon  
a Time...

Mark 4:30-32 (ESV)

**Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, "The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you."**

**Once Upon  
a Time...**

**Luke 17:20-21 (ESV)**

# Testimonies of the Growing Kingdom

Once Upon  
a Time...

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.... And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Once Upon  
a Time...

Philippians 1:6, 9-11 (ESV)