



Week 1: Never Settle For Less Than God's Story

Mark Clark // July 19, 2026

It's easy to drift through life believing that "good enough" is enough. We settle into routines, accept old labels, and quietly assume our best days are behind us—or that God could never use someone like us. But what if that's exactly the lie we've believed? In this first message of *Never Settle*, we're reminded that God has been writing a story since the beginning of time, and he invites each of us into it. The question isn't whether God has a purpose for your life—it's whether you'll trust him enough to stop settling for less.

Scripture: [John 1:1-14 NIV](#)

Bottom Line: Never settle for less than the story God is writing in your life.

Digging In:

1. Where do people most commonly settle in life (relationships, career, faith, purpose, habits, etc.)? Why do you think this happens?
2. Have you ever settled for something you later realized God had better in mind?
3. Read John 1:1-14 together. What does it mean that Jesus is called "the Word" and was present "in the beginning"? What are the implications for your life?
4. How does knowing God created the world—and created you intentionally—change the way you see your own story?
5. The Gospel writer John describes Jesus as bringing both "life" and "light." What do these two words communicate about who Jesus is and what his purpose is?
6. Verse 12 says those who receive Jesus become "children of God." How is this identity so foundational to the Christian life?
7. What labels or past experiences have tempted you to believe God couldn't use you? If you truly believed you were God's beloved son or daughter (see v. 12), how might that change the way you approach this coming week?
8. John says Jesus came "full of grace and truth." Why do we often lean toward one while neglecting the other? Which comes more naturally for you—extending grace or speaking truth? How so?
9. Pastor Mark emphasized that our words can bring either life or death. Who in your life needs to hear words of life from you this week?
10. Where do you feel God inviting you to stop settling and trust him for something greater?

Moving Forward:

This week, ask yourself: *Where have I quietly settled?* Maybe it's believing a lie about yourself, keeping your faith private, or accepting less than what God is inviting you into. Ask Jesus to remind you that you are his beloved child and look for one opportunity this week to reflect his light—through your words, your encouragement, or by simply sharing what he's done in your life.

Prayer Prompt:

Invite everyone to pair up (or groups of three, if needed). Give everyone a minute to answer this question with their partner: *What's one area of your life where you don't want to settle anymore?* After each person shares, have their partner pray a 30-60 second prayer specifically for that area. Encourage simple prayers like:

Jesus, thank you that you have more for us than simply getting by. Remind _____ that they are your beloved son/daughter. Give them courage to trust you, to walk in your purpose, and to follow where you're leading. Fill them with your light and your life this week. Amen.

And then close out the group time by praying something like:

Jesus, thank you that you never settle for us. Thank you for inviting us into your story and giving us a new identity as your children. Help us leave here believing who you say we are and living as people who reflect your grace, truth, and light wherever we go. Amen.