



Small Group Study Guide

Welcome TO Wonderland

February 9, 2020

Center of the World

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you so much for showing up to be our point of reference. You have given us this reference point but too often we focus our eyes elsewhere. And you know that when our focus is not on Jesus, our wonder can lead us to wander. So Father, would you help us get this right. Help us fix our eyes on Jesus. It's in his name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES:

Hebrews 12:1-3 New International Version (NIV)

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.



INTRODUCTION

We wonder because our frames of reference don't provide us with all the answers. As your frame of reference changes or expands, some mysteries are solved. Some remain mysterious. So what do you do with the big mysteries in life – the mysteries that don't resolve no matter how much you explore them? What do you do with your unanswered questions?

When it comes to faith, if you wondered and then wandered, here's something to ponder: perhaps your eyes were fixed on the wrong thing or person. What was the faith you lost fixed on and fastened to? Chances are it wasn't Jesus. Remember: God showed up on our side of the frame to serve as your frame of reference.

QUESTIONS

- 1) What do you wonder?
- 2) What is something you used to wonder about but don't anymore? In what way did your frame of reference change to resolve what once seemed mysterious?
- 3) Talk about a time when you met someone who was convinced their frame of reference for making sense of the world is correct, but you didn't agree? How did you respond to that person? To what extent did that interaction cause you to re-examine your own assumptions.
- 4) What kind of framework for making sense of the world did you grow up with – religious, academic, scientific, moralistic, or something else? How did that framework shape your view of the world?
- 5) Was there ever a time in your life when your faith was fixed on a pastor/priest, church, experience, circumstances or the Bible? If so, what happened?

FINAL APPLICATION

Do you need to examine your current frame of reference? What is one thing you can do this week to fix your eyes on Jesus?