



Small Group Study Guide

Welcome to Wonderland

February 16, 2020

Show and Tell

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your son into this world so we would not have to wonder where we stand with you. Sorry for the times our eyes get fixed on something or someone other than Jesus and we begin to wander. Father, we really want to get this right. So would you give us the wisdom to know how to fix our eyes on Jesus and then give us the courage to do it. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: John 14:1-11

14 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going.” 5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” 6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really know me, you will know[b] my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” 8 Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” 9 Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10 Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. 11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.



INTRODUCTION

We *wonder* because our frames of reference don't provide us with all of the answers. Every version of religion works for children. But then life happens. We experience challenging circumstances that sow doubt in our childhood faith. Tragedy causes us to question if God is good and loving. Sin leads to guilt and shame. We wonder if God can really love us. Is there such a thing as a frame of reference that can accommodate a grown-up faith?

If you lost faith, what was the faith fixed on or fastened to? A church that dismissed science or mislabeled people? Religious rule keeping? A version of God that would not let bad things happen to good people? Don't abandon faith because you once used the wrong frame of reference. Instead, fix your eyes on Jesus.

QUESTIONS

- 1) Was faith important in your life growing up? To what extent did those childhood experiences influence your adult faith?
- 2) In what ways do you tend to live your life through the window of your own insecurity? How might your life be different if you were completely confident in God's love for you?
- 3) In what ways does your adult frame of reference cause you to struggle to accept Jesus' promises in this passage?
- 4) During the message, Eric said that God sent Jesus to stand with us so we wouldn't wonder where we stood with Him. Does your relationship with Jesus leave you assured of where you stand with God? Why or why not?
- 5) On what is your faith currently fixed – your circumstances, the Bible, keeping rules? How do you think that might limit the depth and riches of your relationship with God?

FINAL APPLICATION

What is one thing you can do this week to fix your eyes on Jesus?