



Small Group Study Guide

Welcome TO Wonderland

February 23, 2020

Faith

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for demonstrating your love for us on the cross. That act of love should settle any wondering we may have regarding your wonderfulness and trustworthiness. Father, forgive us when we want to assign promises to you that you never made. Help us to un-focus on things we thought you should do and didn't do, and refocus our attention on Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of faith. We pray this in his name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES:

Hebrews 11:1-2

11 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for.

John 1:4-5

4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Romans 5:8

8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.



INTRODUCTION

We all wonder. When we fix our eyes somewhere other than on God, wonder leads to wander. If you wandered from the faith or are looking for the door, it's not because of Jesus. It's probably because you fixed your eyes on people, institutions, or a religion based on following rules. You may think Christianity requires mind-numbing experience denying faith, but what if that's not true.

If you wondered, then wandered, here is something to ponder: there will always be things about faith that make you wonder, but God's love for you should not be one of them. Two thousand years ago, light broke through the darkness in the town of Bethlehem. God communicated in no uncertain terms that he loves you. So take your eyes off the people, the institutions, the legalism that caused you to lose faith and fix your eyes on Jesus. Fix your eyes on the wonder of his love.

QUESTIONS

- 1) How do you define the word "faith."
- 2) Read Hebrews 11:1-2 on page 1. How does the faith described in these verses differ from your definition? How is it similar?
- 3) Have you ever treated faith as a magical force you tap into or a formula you figure out? If so, what happened?
- 4) Read John 1:4-5 on page 1. Is it difficult for you to believe that Jesus' light can overcome the darkness in the world around you? Why or why not?
- 5) During the message, Eric said "There will always be things about faith that make you wonder, but God's love for you should not be one of them." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why or why not?

FINAL APPLICATION

What is one thing you can do this week to fix your eyes on Jesus and find his light in the darkness?