



STUDY GUIDE – February 9, 2020

Message Title: Wonder

Teaching Pastor: Brian C. Hughes

This study guide has been designed for Small Groups in mind, and can be used by individuals as well.

Warm-up/Icebreaker:

- What was your favorite movie as a child? As an adult?
- In what movie would you love to play the starring role?

Pray:

Pray for our time together, that we can go deeper in our understanding of what it truly means to be fearfully and wonderfully made by God as David wrote in Psalms 139. Pray that the Holy Spirit helps us honestly search to see if there are any insecurities or masks that prevent us from living fully into our God-designed identity.

Get Started:

- Do you tend to be confident or to doubt yourself?
- Has something from a past experience caused an insecurity that has affected you presently?
- Have you taken steps to overcome the past experience?

Read Isaiah 43:18-19 & Ephesians 4:31-32.

What do these verses say to you about how God wants to work in your life?

Watch and Discuss video:

As Brian had mentioned, Sunday's message focused on the movie Wonder, which follows a boy with Treacher Collins syndrome, who is trying to fit in. Given that in Psalm 139 David talks about being wonderfully made, how does this relate to the character of Auggie? How can this be interpreted in light of people with perceived deficiencies? We might not really know the answer to that question but God does give us some insight into trusting in Him.

Read Romans 8:28.

We all have deficiencies. These may be physical, emotional, mental or spiritual. Those that we are born with or ones we create or ones that have been developed from things done to us. However, God is bigger than any and all of what we view as a deficiency and we can trust in Him.

David wrote Psalm 139 after he had made some big mistakes and faced his own deficiencies, focusing on the fact that God did make Him wonderfully-made.

Read Philippians 3:10-14. Discuss this verse in light of David's prayer.

Dive in::

To see how God sees, believe what God says. Don't let your self-image get in the way of what God wants to do through you. Believe him! See yourself (and others) how He sees you (and them)—as a son or daughter of the King.

Read 1 Peter 2:9 & 1 Corinthians 12:4-6.

Reflect:

In Luke 8:17- Hidden things will always come out in the open. Secret things will come to light and be exposed.

- Is there any area of your life where you wear a mask or a facade?
- Is there a time when your life changed by taking a mask off that let God or others in?

Read 2 Corinthians 3:18.

Commit:

Often it takes more courage to recognize and then face our insecurities than to simply hide them from ourselves and from others. Try to get to the root cause.

- What is one thing you can do this week to begin to see you the way God sees you? What can this group do to encourage and support you?

Pray:

The excerpt below is from the closing song from Sunday, called Build My Life by Housefires. Make this your closing prayer. Read each line and pause for people to pray individually, then close in prayer at the end. One idea could be to play the song for people to sing.

Holy there is no one like you..... pause
There is none beside you..... pause
Open up my eyes in **wonder**..... pause
Show me who you are and fill me.....pause
With your heart and lead me..... pause
In your love to those around me.....pause