

Wonder

Psalms 139:14 (ESV): I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; My soul knows it very well.

Identity is the foundation upon which a relationship with the living God can be built. Upon this foundation, Eagle Sky will present the Gospel in a creative, fresh, and relevant way to kids ages 7-12.

Psalms 139:14 is a glimpse of a foundation built so well that even the soul resonates with the sacrifice of God and the response of the individual. Over a three day series, we will ask three questions: I Wonder Who, I Wonder Why, I Wonder How. Through these three questions, we will present who we are in Christ, why He chose us, and how we fit into the story.

Wonder Who: According to **John 1:12** when we receive Jesus we are given the right to become children of God. Who we are and how we perceive ourselves are often not the same thing. The world we live in leads us to believe that we are what we do, what we've done, and what we are capable of. Additionally, the world asserts that who you are is the sport you play, the place you are from, the mistakes you've made, the clothes you wear, or what you have to offer. Often, we allow those superficial titles, labels, circumstances, environments, or individuals to dictate who we are. However, when we allow Christ to redefine us, recondition our thinking, or re-lay our foundation we become something more, something different, something beautiful. We were made in the image of God to look, feel, act, and live as He does. We are His special possession. At the core of our being, before we are anything else we are first good, second His likeness, and third His children. He knew us uniquely, personally, deeply, and intimately prior to the creation of the world, and like a potter with clay, designed every feature and every strand of hair; perfectly and WONDERFULLY, and with innate WONDER, that we might explore Him with WONDER. Therefore, you are not the sum of your parts, not a list of labels, or a culmination of your environment, but you are who He says you are, a Child of God.

Supporting Scriptures (ESV): Genesis 1:27, Jeremiah 1:5, 1 Peter 2:9 Isaiah 64:8, Jeremiah 18:6

Wonder Why: It is one thing to know what God thinks of you but knowing why is an entirely different matter. To cement the foundation of identity in an individual you must know value. When value is established purpose comes into view. Who you are is directly connected to value. Our value as Christians comes from the price paid to redeem us. More directly, the planning, sacrifices made, lives lost and struggle endured; producing a moment of decision to purchase us. When you know who you are, whose you are, and why you have been chosen so specifically and purchased at such a high price, your identity becomes concrete. If you are only valued by the fact that scripture describes you as fearfully and wonderfully made, you can never reach the second half of the verse, that your soul knows the truth very well. The soul of man is directly connected to experience, trial, life's ups and downs, how we view the world, and ultimately how the world will view us. The Bible, in Matthew 26, describes two very different "Great Purchase" stories that depicts the difference between the way the world views us and the way God views us. Judas and Jesus are our examples. After 3 years spent with Jesus, Judas and the Chief Priests, valued Jesus at 30 pieces of silver. Whereas Jesus, after

spending what must have felt like an eternity apart from us, values the world so highly that He would be willing to lay down His life. **John 3:16** describes a discourse in heaven, a plan to end all plans and a story to set the tone for eternity. God is willing to give His first, only, and beloved Son for the world. God lavishes His love on the world in a beautiful display of self-sacrifice. Jesus presents us with an opportunity to reclaim our purpose and value. The measuring scales of value are broken at the magnitude of the sacrifice. For you to know who you are you must know why God chose to give up who He is. For you to become a Child of God He gave His only Child. For His special possession, He chose to pay an exorbitant price. Now our purpose is made clear. Not just a soccer player, musician, girl, boy, brother, or sister, but a child of God made to worship, made to relate, and made to live with God each and every day of our lives. His plan was to reclaim His fearfully and WONDERFULLY made creation, so that when we look to heaven we may look with WONDER, not just of who we are, but with WONDER of whose we are.

Supporting Scriptures (ESV): Psalms 74:2, 1 Corinthians 6:20, 1 Corinthians 7:23, Jeremiah 29:11, Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 9:6-7, Genesis 3:15, Acts 2:23, Psalms 33:11, Isaiah 53:10

Wonder How: We now know who we are, and why we are, but how do we interact with the ongoing story of Christ love and sacrifice. Where identity and value are known a vacuum of purpose is created. Christ fills that vacuum with one word, GO. **Matthew 28:19** is the offer letter of scripture for the opportunity for us to become disciples and partakers in the journey of faith for the world Christ died to save and rose to redeem. The entirety of scripture is building not toward a climax, but toward commissioning. If Christ's death and resurrection are the climax of the story, anything following is the falling action, which doesn't seem to be the way Christ described what was to follow. The Great Commission is GREAT! Christ's life was no final act but the turning point to life itself. **Identity Re-defined. Value Re-determined. Purpose Re-Imagined.** Christ's absences from earth creates an opportunity for us, His Children, Co-Laborers, and Runningmates, to take part in the story. We are called to stand tall in who we are, to live in our value, and walk out our purpose. This is the moment that camp becomes more than a vacation, where the gospel becomes more than a story, and Christ becomes more than a mythical figure. This is the moment where we present ourselves as Fearfully and WONDERFULLY made, knowing who we are VERY well.

Supporting Scriptures (ESV): 2 Corinthians 4:6, John 13:34-35, John 14:12-14, John 15:4-11, John 15:15-27, John 16:25-33, John 17:6-19, Romans 12:1-2, Romans 5:17-21, Romans 6:11-14,

Wonder What: WHAT NOW? What do I do with all of this information? Over 5 nights at camp I have now learned who I am, why He chose me, and what my purpose is, but what now? What am I capable of now? How do I interact with the plan of God today, tomorrow, and every day? Simple, **Acts 2:37-43**, like today, early Christians were perplexed. This message of the Gospel is too good to keep to myself. I want to take part in the story. So they ask, "WHAT SHALL WE DO?". The response is to Repent, Be Baptized, and Go. If you haven't to this point accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior this is your moment. Repent is step one, place everything at the feet of Jesus, your past, your

present and your future. Make room for Christ to be the Lord of your life, here and now before all people. Step two: Baptism, a public display of an inner work. Meaning do not be ashamed or afraid to share about all that you have learned here, the person you know you were created to be and put Jesus on display. Lastly, we charge you to GO! Impact your world with the message of the Gospel. Help the world answer the same questions you've answered this week. After encountering you, no one should leave Wondering Who, Wondering Why or Wondering How, because it's your job to point them to Jesus. Wonder What now?... Go!

Supporting Scriptures (ESV): 1 Corinthians 1:16-17, Romans 6:22-23, Romans 8:14-17, Romans 8:35-39, Romans 10:8-16