

WNDR

***Psalms 139:14** 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 Teens ages 13-18. **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: 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. An "Identity-less" individual may be led to believe 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, and re-lay our foundation we become something more, something different, something beautiful, something holy. According to **Genesis 1:26-31**, in the beginning, God created Man and Woman in His perfect image and likeness. If we were made in the image of God in His infinite perfection, we must 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 very 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 master potter with clay, He designed every feature, every strand of hair, perfectly, 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): John 1:12, Genesis 1:26-31, 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. **Colossians 2:12-15** makes this plain to see. As we were buried and raised with Christ in His glorious triumph over death and sin, our debt was canceled, our wages of sin nulled and our ability to rise in freedom came at a great cost. More directly, the planning, sacrifices made, lives lost and struggle endured, produced a moment of decision to purchase us. A humbling thought is that all of creation from the time of the fall to the day Jesus was nailed to the cross awaited a glorious triumph, a masterful redemption and the revealing of the sons and daughters of God. A plan so ancient in origin that the inhabitants of the world had all but forgotten, but the very foundations of creation, the world around us knew full well. At the resurrection, the rescuing of humanity, the sons and daughters of God depicted in John 1:12 rose to take their place. The entire world took a sign of relief from it's anxiety and waiting, and rejoiced with the tearing of the veil, the quaking of the earth, and the rolling of the stone. Humanity's greatest blunder was finally washed away with the purity of Christ's blood and the magnitude of the King's sacrifice. When you know who you are, whose you are, and why you have been chosen so specifically, purchased at such a high price, your identity becomes concrete. Our aim is to know very well that we are God's and we are WONDERFUL. As we know, God is willing to give His

first, only, beloved Son for the world. More to the point, God lavishes His love on the world in a beautiful display of self-sacrifice, for more than just the many, but for the one. 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. To redeem His special possession He chose to pay an exorbitant price. Now our purpose is made clear. We are a tangible reflection of the perfection of the Father, made to worship in a way nothing else in creation can. To interact with God on an intimate level. 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 7:22-23, Jeremiah 29:11, Romans 5:8, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Colossians 2:12-15, 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. 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 subsequent resurrection is the climax of the story and 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 absence 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 are 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, 2 Timothy 4:1-5

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, the 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. Furthermore, the Apostle Paul tells Timothy to allow the work of God to shine in him for all to see. He charges Timothy with a simple duty: 2 Timothy 4:1-5 "I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry." Prior to being sent you must first repent. Repentance is step one, place everything at the feet of Jesus, your past, your present, your future. Make room for Christ to be the Lord of your life, here and now before all people. Second is Baptism. Baptism is simply 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, as well as, Christ and the Apostles, charge you to go! Impact your world with the message of the Gospel. You are not too young! You can be a catalyst for change now! 1 Timothy 4:12 says you are not too young, but you are called of God to be a leader NOW! 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, 1 Timothy 6, 2 Timothy 2:19, 2 Timothy 4:1-5, 1 Timothy 4:12