



Week 2

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Overview

In the series, *God at the Movies*, we will look at modern day movies to help us understand spiritual truth. Today, we are going to look at our second movie, *Wonder*.

Discussion Questions

The movie *Wonder* begins by introducing a boy named Auggie with a different background than everyone else—leaving him feeling insecure and not ordinary. Many of us have insecurities about ourselves and our lives. We sometimes compensate for the parts of us we don't like and cover up our insecurities by trying to mask it, hide it, and disguise it. To get past these insecurities, it's important we understand that God created us each with unique characteristics and a special purpose.

“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.” (Psalm 139:13-16)

- Why do you think God created us all differently?

In the movie, Auggie’s parents decide to put him in a new school, knowing it would be difficult. Auggie’s sister says, “If they stare, let them stare. You can’t blend in when you were born to stand out.” We should embrace the fact that we were born to stand out and make a difference.

- What are some practical ways you make a difference in the lives of your family, friends, and community?

Auggie's mom asks him to take off his helmet. She gently helped him see that we all have marks—some are our fault and some are not. Regardless of where our marks came from, if we continue to pretend to be something we're not, we may not experience the healing and comfort God has for us.

Proverbs 14:13 says, **“Laughter cannot mask a heavy heart. When the laughter ends, the grief remains.”** The first step towards healing is honesty. We will only find freedom, like Auggie, when we take the mask off and begin to let others in.

God's design for us is to be in a family of other people called the Church. As imperfect as it is, we still need a family of people who will go through life with us. **Galatians 6:2** says, **“Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”**

- Why is it sometimes challenging to let others in?
- How can other godly men and women help bring healing to our situations?
- How can transparency in relationships help us grow and live out the life God has for us?

In the beginning of the movie, Auggie constantly hid behind a mask. When he took it off, he discovered that he was special. We can live fulfilling lives when we embrace who God uniquely created us to be. God heals us from our past, and through Christ, we become a new creation. **2 Corinthians 5:17** says, **“Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”**

- How does your identity in Christ change your perspective on how you view yourself?
- What can we do to comfort others in their insecurity and help them in their journey towards healing?

Life Challenge

This week, take time to think about the different insecurities you have about yourself and write them down. Open your Bible and write down verses that speak truth over your insecurities and who God says you are.

Prayer

Thank You, Jesus, for laying down your life for us so that we can become a new creation in You. Thank You, God, for challenging us to let others in instead of going through life alone. Thank You for providing the right people at the right time when we need others and continuing to guide us in our relationships. Amen.

Pray for the specific needs of the group.