

# NEW HEIGHTS

## DISCUSSION

### AT THE MOVIES

#### “Wonder” Life Group Discussion

##### **Big Idea**

In *Wonder*, R.J. Palacio tells the story of Auggie, a tough, sweet, 10-year-old boy, who was born with distorted facial features — a "craniofacial difference" caused by an anomaly in his DNA. *Wonder* shares the experiences Auggie encounters during his transition from home school to public school, as well as the experiences of his classmates, teachers and administrators. This is an amazing story that teaches us how to overcome our insecurities, whether they are external or internal. I think honestly, in some way, we are all a different version of Auggie. There is something or a lot of things that we don't like about ourselves. I'm guessing that you are insecure about something. It might be the way you look, what you can't do, or what you're not. Maybe your hair is too thin, your legs are too thick, your ears are too big, your skin is too pale, or your nose is too big. You aren't smart enough, funny enough, athletic enough, successful enough, charismatic enough, talented enough, pretty enough. So what do we do? Well, we do our own version of what Auggie did. We put on the helmet. We cover our insecurities; we mask it, we hide it, and we try to disguise it. In some ways, we might try to compensate for the parts of us that we don't like. It might be by makeup, or lots of possessions, or filters on social media. Maybe you only wear name brand clothes or you try to cover your depression by trying to be the life of the party. Sometimes we might wonder deep down, "Why did God make me like this?" I hope you'll understand that you may feel ordinary, but you aren't.

##### **Read**

**Psalm 139:13-14** 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.

**1 Corinthians 13:6-8** Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

**Ephesians 2:10** For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

##### **Little About Me**

Take a moment and share an embarrassing moment in your life.

## **Discussion Questions**

- Talk about a time when you were attempting to control your own life. What difficulties did you encounter as you fought for control? Share what ultimately inspired you to hand over the reins to God.
- In looking at the above passages, which one specifically applies to your life right now, and why?
- Discuss the fact that God's view of you is different than your view of yourself. While you see your own limitations, God sees your potential. How does this make you feel? Thinking about your past or your self-perception, share what you need to release in order to receive the new identity God has for you.
- Talk about where you currently are, on a scale of 1 (white-knuckled control) to 10 (total surrender). What practical steps can you take this week to move up the scale and release more of your life to God?

## **Prayer Focus**

Thank God for His desire to give you new strength, identity and joy. Ask Him for discernment to know which areas of your life you need to release to Him, and ask Him to help you hand over control. Recognize before Him that His plans for your life are greater than your own. Submit to His wisdom and leadership, trusting that He will take care of you.

## **Next Step**

Identify the areas of your life where you are holding on to control, and place them before God as an offering. Humble yourself, let God lead, and hand your life over to Him.

## **Leader Tip**

When ministering to someone in your group, remember ESPN. Encourage – Share Scripture – Pray – Next Steps.