



## Wonderland Week 2 Discussion & Reflection Guide

### Questions and Prompts

- **What stood out to you from Sunday's service?** How did you sense God at work in you through the songs, the story video, the message, and being together with others as part of the church? (The message's main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)
- **“Loneliness can be compounded during the holidays.”**
  - Do you feel this today?
  - Who do you know that might be having a hard time this year? **Reach out to them now to let them know you're thinking of them.**
- “Be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:20. Print or **write out this verse** and put it somewhere you'll see often this week.
- **“The most spiteful response is never the right response.”** Is there someone who has hurt you or done something that has been hard for you? **How can you turn to God for comfort? How can you intentionally choose a higher response that honors God in this situation?**
- “We can trust the commands of God because we know the promises of God.” **What are some of God's promises that you want to remember today?**
- **Is there anything else from the message you want to explore more deeply this week?**

### Advent

Sometimes, the weeks leading up to Christmas are so full that we miss what is most important. Find a simple Advent calendar we created, as well as several other Advent suggestions at [wschurch.org/advent](http://wschurch.org/advent) and slow down during a busy season to be with God. (If you'd like a hard copy of the calendar, they are available at the Next Steps Area.)

### Christmas at West Side

For all of the info about Christmas services and opportunities, go to [wschurch.org/Christmas](http://wschurch.org/Christmas). You'll also find digital invites that make it easy to send a personal invitation to friends and family!

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take your next spiritual step, contact us at [info@wschurch.org](mailto:info@wschurch.org).

## Message Main Points & Scripture

- **Home Alone**
- **Loneliness is one of most common human emotions.**
- **Loneliness can be compounded during the holidays.**
- Matthew 1:18 – “This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.”
- Genesis 1:1 – “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”
- **Joseph believed he was called to take the high road.**
- **“How has God dealt with my sin?”**
- **God separated your sins from you as far as the east is from the west.**
- Psalm 103:09-10 – “He will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever. He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve.”
- **God wants you to obsess over the highest response, not the lowest.**
- Matthew 1:22-23 – “All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: ‘Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means: God is with us.’”
- **God's ultimate response to our loneliness is himself.**
- Matthew 28:20 - “Be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
- **Embrace everything that draws you closer to God and resist everything that does not.**
- **The most spiteful response is never the right response.**
- Romans 12:17-21 – “Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, ‘I will take revenge; I will pay them back,’ says the LORD. Instead, ‘If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads.’ Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.”
- **God's best future for us is tied to his commands.**
- Matthew 1:24 - When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife.
- **We can trust the commands of God because we know the promises of God.**