



# AN AWE-FILLED CHRISTMAS: Wonder, Worship, and Waking Up

#TMHAweFilledChristmas 

## Week 1: *The Wonders of His Love*

### APPETIZER – Eternity Inside

#### *The Premise of this Series...*

Christmas is a season when we tend to feel right about charity, kindness, and taking time to appreciate the wonder of the world. We also intuitively feel like this is a better way, a more “right” way of living and being.

At the same time, we all sense something is wrong with our obsession with materialism, even though we continue to be part of the problem that we simultaneously criticize. We know better. We want better. And yet we are stuck.

Cultivating a sense of **wonder** that leads us to **worship** will help us **wake up** from our habitual meaningless materialism. When we fill our lives with an awareness of God and respond with worship, we will be **satisfied** with his “love that is better than life” (King David).

**God has planted eternity in the human heart,  
but even so, people cannot fathom the whole  
scope of God’s work from beginning to end.  
~ King Solomon (Ecclesiastes 3:11)**

S.M.I. = Something More Impulse

**Genesis 2:7  
John 1:9, 12:32, 16:8  
Mark 9:15**

### MAIN COURSE – Wide-Eyed Wonder

Psalm 63

### TAKE OUT – Moving From the Mall to the Manger

Christmas is not going to the mall to find a cheap meaningful gift to give.  
It’s going to the manger to find a costly meaningful gift to receive.  
~ Mark Moore

**Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:19-20  
Luke 23:34, 24:46-48**

Joy To The World (by Isaac Watts)

Verse 4

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders, of His love.



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## Home Church Questions...

### HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic]

1. What are you most/least looking forward to about the Christmas season this year?
2. What makes Christmas a particularly good time to be talking about wonder and worship?

### HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture]

3. Read **Psalm 63**.
  - a. What verse or idea from the text (or Sunday's message) stands out to you? Why?
  - b. In which verse can you most relate to David?
  - c. What difference might it make in your life to think of God as "my" God and not just God in general?
  - d. David says his whole being longs for God. The Bible says that at some level, this is true for everyone. Why is that? (Try to communicate this in a way that would make sense to a non-Christian.)
  - e. What does it mean to say God's love is better than life itself?
  - f. David talks a little bit here about God's judgment on the wicked people who want to kill him. How does believing in God's future judgment help us live at peace in the present?

### HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together]

4. On a scale of 1-to-10, how "earnestly" do you seek God? Why?
5. How can you anticipate this Christmas being different for you as you increase your wonder, your worship, and your wakefulness?
6. John Chrysostom (347-407 AD) advised reading this psalm daily. Try it for the next week and share any impact next time you're together.

December 1/8 || @bruxy

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## Quotes...

Welcome to Awe-Filled Christmas – a series that explores how the story of Jesus can increase our wonder and inspire our worship.

People feel they want something they've lost, and they don't remember what it is they've lost. But it has left a gaping hole.  
~ Charles Nuckolls

There is a worldwide stirring among people today. They are tired of the experience of life and they are looking for a sense that God is with us.  
~ Tommy Coomes

When we choose to recalibrate our lives round Christ, we'll wake up to new meaning, comfort, and joy.  
~ Robert Bilmont

Christian worship is the most momentous, the most urgent, the most glorious action that can take place in human life.  
~ Karl Barth

Most middle-class North Americans tend to worship their work, to work at their play, and to play at their worship. As a result, their meanings and values are distorted.  
~ Gordon Dahl

Everyone eventually surrenders to something or someone. You were designed to worship God – and if you fail to worship him, you will create other things to give your life to.  
~ Rick Warren

Deep in the soul of every human being is a longing for transcendence created within us by God Himself.  
~ James MacDonald

Our hearts are restless until they rest in God.  
~ Augustine

God has planted eternity in the human heart.  
~ King Solomon

What if we really believed – I mean really...