



**Week One:
“I Wonder As
I Wander”**

Five ways to increase my sense of wonder this season:

**1. When I see _____ ...
I'll remember _____**

“Through him all things were made... The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.” John 1:3,9

Jesus: “I am the light of the world.” John 8:12

**2. When I see _____ ...
I'll remember _____**

(Christ’s opponents) “Here is a friend of tax collectors and sinners.” Matt. 11:19

“I no longer call you servants ...instead, I have called you friends.” John 15:15

**3. When I see _____ ...
I'll remember _____**

“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” Matt. 1:21 (See Luke 7:48 and Matt. 9:2)

“Your sins have been forgiven on account of His name.” 1 John 2:12

**4. When I see _____ ...
I'll remember _____**

“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.” Rom. 8:29

Jesus: “Freely you have received, freely give.” Matt. 10:8

**5. When I see _____ ...
I'll remember _____**

“I will set pines in the wasteland, the fir and the cypress together... Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth.” Isa. 41:19; 65:17

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth... He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain...” Rev. 21:1,4

Daily Christmas Meditations

Brief daily Bible studies based on this week's message

This week's memory verse:

“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” Matt. 1:21

Monday

Read John 1:1-14. The first symbol we discussed this past weekend was *Christmas lights*. They can serve to help us remember these verses from the Gospel of John. What facts about Jesus (“The Word” and “The Light”) can you find in these verses?

What strikes you most about Jesus in this passage? Why?

Why did the Word become flesh and live among us?

How should the reality of the Light becoming human affect your life today?

Thank God that He came to earth to reach out to us. Ask Him specifically to be your light in an area of your life where you need His guidance and relationship.

Tuesday

The second reminder we talked about this past weekend was *Christmas cards*. They can remind us that we are on God's “friendship list”, which is not something to be taken for granted! Read the words of Christ in John 15:9-17. Why did Jesus call his disciples his friends?

What did Jesus urge his disciples to do?

When is it difficult for you to develop and maintain a personal friendship with Jesus?

How do you feel when you think of Jesus desiring you as a friend?

Ask God to help you be a better friend ... to Him! You can begin this by talking to Him right now as you would to a friend about what is going on in your life.

Wednesday

The third reminder we discussed this weekend was *credit cards!* This seems a funny reminder of God at first, but follow me: It's a relief to think that our moral debt has been paid completely by Jesus' work for us on the cross!

Read Romans 5:1-11 and Romans 8:1,2. Paraphrase what it means to be "justified through faith":

How does God show His love for you? (Romans 5:8)

This means, if you accept what Christ did for you, there is no longer any sin separating you from the Father! How does this make you feel?

Give thanks to God for the greatest gift of all: We were credited righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ, and all our sin debt was wiped away!

Thursday

Another reminder we mentioned this past weekend was *St. Nicholas*-- the original Nicholas, who was a strong, intelligent and generous church leader. How does the example of those who lived strong Christian lives in the past serve to inspire you today?

When I think of Nicholas, I am inspired to be more giving, since after all I have "freely received" from Jesus so much more than I could ever give. Read Hebrews 11:1-16 for another list of inspiring saints. Which examples pop out to you?

I like the fact that these people were far from perfect. Yet they kept following the Lord. How does this inspire you?

Think of a tough time you are going through right now. How do you think these saints would advise you if you asked them about that situation?

Pray about a specific struggle today. Ask God for the kind of character transformation that Abraham, Moses, Nicholas and others evidenced in their lives.

Friday

We spoke this past weekend about how evergreens reminded Christians in the past of God's promise of a new earth. For some reason this is infrequently discussed in our day, but the Bible promises not only heaven, but also a new earth where we will enjoy the beauty of our physical world without the corruption and suffering. Read Rev. 21:1-4 and Isaiah 41:17-20. According to these verses, what will life be like on the new earth and new heaven?

In what ways are the promises of these verses meaningful to you?

How can you remind yourself today and throughout the season of God's promised future for His people?

Ask the Lord to remind you of the promise of a new earth that retains the beauty of creation without the corrupting effects of sin. If you are not sure if you have ever received God's offer of pardon and entrance into His promised land, do so today by praying to receive Him into your heart and life.

Saturday

Today polish up that memory verse and finish any devotions you may have missed. Please pray for the services this weekend-- and the holiday events coming soon. Thanks!