

## Hope Has a Name: *Wonderful Counselor*

Isaiah 7:14, 9:2-6

### RECAP

**This week's focus: Jesus came to be with us as our Wonderful Counselor.**

The greatest gift ever given to mankind was Jesus Christ! When the prophet, Isaiah, foretold the birth of Jesus, one of the names he used to identify Him was "Wonderful Counselor." The prophet Isaiah foretold the birth of Jesus seven centuries before he was born. This prophecy was not first made at Christmastime. Isaiah spoke these words in the year 730 B.C. during a dark time for the people of Israel. They were about to be attacked and were desperate for guidance in the midst of the doom and gloom. King Ahaz was nervous because Assyria was forming an army to attack Jerusalem and he was wondering about the best way to defend themselves and who to form alliances with.

Isaiah 7 shows us that God sends the prophet Isaiah to Ahaz and tells him, "Don't worry about alliances. I will protect you." This should have been reassuring to Ahaz, but evidently Isaiah could tell that he was still worried, so he said to Ahaz, "Don't worry, Ahaz, God will give you a miraculous sign to prove he'll protect you if you trust him." Ahaz however was unwilling to ask of the Lord, but God told him anyway. Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."

Isaiah is referring to a child much greater than the one born during that day. You can see that in the names He is called in chapter 9. These names are inappropriate for a merely human child. There was a temporary fulfillment in Isaiah's day, but ultimately, this prophecy would be fulfilled in Jesus. Jesus was the Son born of a virgin who would be the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace.

In revealing the Messiah as a Wonderful Counselor, God's people were reminded that God had a divine plan for hope and deliverance. The Wonderful Counselor would arrive to guide them through their worst. He would lead them as their Perfect King. Jesus fulfills Isaiah's prophecy. His birth deals with our greatest problem; separation from God. As our Wonderful Counselor, He gives us hope regardless of our troubles. He understands us, sympathizes with our pain, and guides us with expert advice.

During this Christmas season He wants to be your Wonderful Counselor. He came to solve your greatest problem and to counsel you through life's difficulties. However, you must be willing to surrender everything to Him. He promises to give you all of Himself, all of heaven, all of eternity, all of God for surrender of you.

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**SHARE (5-10 min)**

1. Icebreaker Question: When have you needed wisdom about a difficult situation you were faced with? How did you seek God's guidance?

**STUDY (about 30 min) Read Isaiah 7:1-14 & Isaiah 9:1-7**

2. Jesus came to solve our greatest problem: separation from God. Why do so many people today still think the bible is no longer relevant?
3. From Isaiah 7:1-14 what were the events surrounding this prophecy?
4. Summarize the themes in Isaiah 9:1-7. How do these prophecies have both a "near fulfillment" and "far fulfillment"?
5. Based on Isaiah 9:1-5, describe the life transformation that will happen when God brings deliverance for His people?
6. Read Hebrews 14:15-16. How does this passage help you understand Jesus as the "Wonderful Counselor"?
7. As "Immanuel" (God with us) Jesus understands you and sympathizes with your pain. How does this shape your relationship with Him?
8. "Wonderful Counselor" means that Jesus can not only help you in your problems but be present with you in the middle of your mess. What does knowing He is "with you" mean in your situation right now?
9. Jesus can be your "Wonderful Counselor" but not without your willful cooperation. What does it look like to be surrendered to Him? To be obedient? To want His healing/solution? To be ready to do what He says?

**SUPPORT (15 min)**

Share what might be keeping you from full surrender. Pray that Jesus would be the "Wonderful Counselor" in your life to help guide you and that you would have the faith to follow His lead.

\*Invite neighbors, friends, and family to our Christmas Eve service at 4pm.