

These questions are for the November 30, 2025, message, "Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor." Please read the sermon passage (Isaiah 9:1-7) out loud.

Passage Outline

Our Wonderful Counselor resolves Christmas tensions.

1. You will see clearly through the gloom. (1-2)
 - a. The gloom of Isaiah's prophecy includes judgment and affliction.
 - i. They had placed their hope and trust in other gods, other kings.
 - ii. Yet God graciously pledges to shine a bright light upon them.
 - b. We experience gloom and afflictions at Christmastime.
 - i. Missed expectations and great disappointments.
 - ii. Yet God has graciously shone the bright light of Christ upon us.
2. You will experience peace, though very small (3-5).
 - a. The prime example: Gideon and Midian (Judges 6-8).
 - b. When God reduces our army and makes us small, it is to teach us that He is trustworthy and faithful. Not to crush us, but to build our faith.
3. You can trust the Child who rules the world. (6-7)
 - a. "Wonderful" (miraculous / awe-struck), "Counselor" (source of divine wisdom).
 - b. He comes showing us the "zeal" (great love) "of the LORD of hosts."

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: In what ways have you been experiencing gloom, anguish or contempt? How has God's light, and your awareness of the arrival of Jesus Christ actually reduced the suffering associated with Christmas "gloom"? How does Jesus bring hope?
2. Based on #2, above: God reduces your resources and makes your "army" small (like Gideon). How has He been doing this in your life? The reason that He does this is so that as we learn to fully trust Him, He gets all the glory in answered prayers and victories. In your area of greatest need, God wants the glory. What is your "area of greatest need"?
3. Based on #3, above: The Wonderful Counselor doesn't give us a pep talk about how great we are or what it looks like to find our voice. He instructs us to wait for God's help and trust in God's provisions. What does it look like for you to seek divine wisdom?
4. Based on #3, above: Counselors make time to meet with people and listen to their problems and disappointments. Christ is our Wonderful Counselor. What do your appointments with Him reveal about your growing trust?
5. Based on #3, above: There are at least three reasons we don't make and keep appointments with the Wonderful Counselor: spiritual blindness, pride and distrust. Which of these three is God addressing in your life today?