



Nov 30 / Dec 1

Isaiah 9:1-7

“Wonderful Counselor”

The word “wonderful” is kind of like “awesome”. Typically, we use these words to describe things that don’t really elicit wonder or awe.

- How was lunch? Awesome!
- Thanks for coming over this evening. We had a wonderful time!

If we really think about it, it’s rare that we experience feelings of awe and wonder. It’s not often that something takes our breath away. But maybe that’s because we are so focused on the day-to-day stuff and rarely slow down enough to experience the Wonder and Awe that comes from knowing Jesus. This December series is all about that - it’s about taking a fresh look at Jesus and letting him take our breath away by his beauty and goodness.

Sermon Notes:

Welcome

- Introduce anyone new to the group.
- Ask the opening question: When was the last time you saw or experienced something so amazing it took your breath away?

Opening Prayer

It’s important to begin with prayer. Pray that God would help each person hear exactly what they need through your time together.

The Future of these Discussion Guides

Last week we shared that the purpose of these guides is to give a framework and provide a few confidence-building discussion questions in case conversation stalls as your group is going through the discovery process. Over the past months, it’s hit us that this may actually be having the opposite effect. When learning to ride a bike, a child feels secure when her parent runs along holding onto the handlebar. But if mom or dad did that day after day for a year, the child would never experience the joy of riding. Why not try to do Discovery Bible Study this week without using the suggested questions? Just ask the main DBS questions (the ones in bold) and allow the group to share their thoughts and questions. You can do this!

Look Back

- Over this past week, what is one way you saw God move?
- Is there someone whom you have helped take a step toward Jesus? Have you shared your story or God’s story with someone?
- Did you follow-through with a step of obedience that you shared the last time your group met?



Look Up

This passage comes in the context of a lot of upheaval. Because of their disobedience, God would allow other nations to come in and defeat the people and carry many of them away into exile. The people were afraid and knew they couldn't trust their leaders to save them. Isaiah prophesied about this coming defeat, exile and return. But in the midst of this, God gives him a vision of a coming child who would represent God's presence and would perfectly govern and protect the people. At a time when the nation was desperate for wisdom and peace, God promised to provide both through the coming Messiah.

- Read Isaiah 9:17 several times together as a group.

Did anything catch your attention as you read this passage? What did you like? What is challenging or difficult to understand?

- How do you see the desire for wisdom and peace expressed in our culture and in other places around the world?
- Zebulun and Naphtali were the areas to the north that would face the worst suffering from invading enemies. But this is where the child would be born who would bring a wonderful, new beginning. Have you experienced God bringing light, or a fresh start, into the darkest parts of your life?

- Verse 4 mentions Midian's - when God miraculously rescued his people through Gideon. Leaders, you might want to read Judges 7 so you can remind your group of this event. How does that event parallel what God will do through Jesus, the Messiah?
- This week's message focused on Jesus as the Wonderful Counselor. If you heard the message, what was your main takeaway?
- What aspect of the description of Jesus' reign means the most to you today? Where do you have need for a "Wonderful Counselor" today?

Read the passage again. What does it say about God? What does it say about us?

- What does it say about God that he would tell the people of the coming rescue before they were even invaded by their enemies?
- Discuss the human desire for wisdom. Is it universal? Why did God emphasize this aspect of Jesus life and ministry?

Look Ahead

- Take a few minutes to reflect quietly on what you have discussed.
- **How will you obey this passage?**
- **What is the name of the person you will share this passage with this week?**
- Take a few minutes to pray for one another