

THE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS

LESSON 2 // THE GIFT OF HOPE

Big Idea: Christmas is a great time to remember that God gave us the greatest gift—His Son Jesus. The prophet Isaiah unpacks this gift for us using four titles that describe who Christ is and what He wants to do in our lives.

Isaiah 9:6 reveals that Jesus is the Wonderful Counselor. All of us need a counselor because we are broken in many ways. Our ways are bent and need to be straightened. We have burdens that need to be lifted. The Wonderful Counselor has extraordinary qualities and abilities to address these issues and set us on the right path. Of course, to benefit from Jesus' counsel, we must cooperate with Him. We need to receive Him as our Counselor, open up to Him, listen to Him and follow Him. Then we can experience the gift of hope and healing in His name.

Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Discussion Questions

This weekend we learned about the gift of hope God offers us through Jesus. What part of the message spoke to you the most and why?

What is your first response when you experience hardships, trouble, or stress? (pray, talk with someone, distraction, etc.)

Share about a time when someone understood what you were going through. How does it feel knowing Christ always understands your struggles and is with you in the middle of them?

Can you think of a time when God counseled you through a difficult situation? What did this process require of you?

Read Hebrews 4:14-16. Do you view Jesus as a distant Savior or as someone who understands what you're going through and offers hope? How does that affect your relationship with Him?

Prayer Focus:

God, You are perfect, flawless, and pure. Thank You that, in spite of our sin, You loved us so much that You sent Jesus to die in our place. Thank You that He is able to understand every difficulty we face in this life and offer us hope. In Jesus' name, amen.