

WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

Isaiah 9:2-6

John 14:15-17

John 16:12-15

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- How many different kinds of counselors can you name? What is each one's purpose or job?
- What qualities would you expect a person to have if they were called "wonderful counselor?"

During a time of war, the prophet Isaiah offered words of hope to the people of Israel. In the now-famous passage from Isaiah 9, the prophet begins by describing the coming Messiah as our Wonderful Counselor. Of course, we now know that the prophesied Messiah of whom Isaiah spoke was Jesus Christ and that Isaiah's words were both a comfort for Israel then and also a reminder for all of us now who have received eternal salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. So, as we anticipate Jesus Christ's birth this Advent season, let's study the scriptures to rediscover what it means to have a wonderful counselor for a savior. Join us as we seek guidance from the divine wisdom and help our wonderful counselor offers us.

Listen: [*Wonderful Counselor*](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- Why do you think God sent us a savior who is a "Wonderful Counselor"?
- Why does that matter for us that "Jesus embodies the wisdom of God"? What impact does this knowledge have on your faith?
- Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25. Do you ever find it difficult to discern God's wisdom from the world's wisdom? If so, in what parts of your life do you struggle with discernment? Or do you ever find it difficult to follow God's counterintuitive wisdom? Why do you think this is? What might help you with better discernment or follow through?
- In segment 3, host Scott Hoezee reminds us that "if we are not reading scripture, we are not opening ourselves up to that living voice of God that can counsel us." Reflect on your last day and week. How often did you read scripture? Was it a normal or an abnormal amount for you? Consider what prevents or interrupts your scripture reading practice and brainstorm one simple way to help yourself cultivate a more permanent habit of reading scripture.

Related Passages

- **Matthew 7:28-29**

- **Isaiah 30:19-21**
- **1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

Conclusion

As Scott summarized at the opening of segment 2, the title Wonderful Counselor “refers to somebody to guide us, to steer us, to advise us on the most fruitful ways to live.” Consider an area of your life in which you need God’s guidance. Close your eyes and visualize Jesus Christ, the Messiah, alongside you in this area of struggle and remember his gift of the Holy Spirit that is within you. What stirs in you as you do this?

Use some or all of these prayer prompts to close your time in prayer.

- Give thanks for the gift of the wonderful counselor in Jesus Christ, our Messiah
- Give thanks for his ongoing counsel and wisdom through the Holy Spirit
- Invite the Holy Spirit into your area of struggle
- Pray for a heart in tune with the Holy Spirit’s voice and open to his guidance

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/wonderful-counselor>

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