



GROW. PRAY. SERVE.

Series: ALL I NEED FOR CHRISTMAS

Message: "... is a Wonderful Counselor"

Dr. Lance D. Watson



PRAYER: Gracious God, as we enter this season of anticipation that we call Advent, help us now to realize that all we really need for Christmas, we can find it in you. You are everything. Thank you for your presence in our lives. Fill us now that we might know nothing but contentment and joy as we anticipate the arrival of Christ in our lives all over again. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

ICEBREAKER: What are you most looking forward to about Christmas this year?

SMALL GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS: Isaiah 9:2-7 (NLT)

The following questions are meant to help your group enter into meaningful discussion that we pray will help you grow into all that God created you to be. These questions are just a guide, so you don't have to use or get through all of them. You may want to look through them ahead of time and identify the ones that would work well with your group. Any questions you don't get to might be used by your group members for study and reflection in their personal devotional times and if your group naturally breaks the ice: feel free to skip the icebreaker question. Remember, it's all about community, so let the Spirit of God guide your discussion where God wants it to go.

1. Pastor Watson pointed out that the Holidays have a way of magnifying both the good and the bad in our lives. Why do you think this is?
2. As a small group, read Isaiah 9:6. Out of all of the things we tend to want from life in general and God in particular, why do you think He specifically gave us a "Wonderful Counselor"? What does this name tell us about the character of God?
3. In what area of your life could you currently use a knowledgeable guide? Where do you usually get your counsel from?
4. Pastor Watson listed 3 reasons that Jesus is a Wonderful Counselor: He knows you, He cares about you, and He is committed to you. Why are these qualities important in a guide? Which one are you most in need of right now?
5. Why do we often have such a hard time figuring out what God's will is for our lives? How can we start listening for God's guiding voice?

CHALLENGE: This week, spend some time specifically praying for any group members who are hurting this holiday season. Then make sure that they are well supported and encouraged over the next few weeks—be creative in showing them that they are loved.

SERVE: One of the ways that the Wonderful Counselor can speak to us is through other people. If your group doesn't already do this, brainstorm some ways that you can become a safe place so you can share openly and honestly.

ADDITIONAL READING: Isaiah 9:6, Hebrews 4:15-16, 1 Peter 5:7, Psalms 55:22, Mark 9:7 and John 10:27.

GPS is a study guide based on the weekend message. The purpose of this guide is to assist small groups in study. Previous GPS Guides are available online at www.myspbc.org under the Resources tab.