

And He Shall Be Called: Wonderful Counselor

Pastor Don Brock

Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!

Open

Pastor Don begins turning our attention toward Christmas this week by starting a new series titled *And He Shall Be Called* which focuses on chapter 9 of the Old Testament book of Isaiah. In this chapter, written around 600 years before Jesus' birth, Isaiah describes the future appearance of God's Messiah (later fulfilled in Jesus) and uses a number of titles to help us understand the depth and totality of what will be His ministry and work. And although the book of Isaiah is full of hope for what God will do in the future, the reality is that when Isaiah was writing the nation of Israel was experiencing turmoil and unrest. So to get your group started, let everyone tell how they're feeling as we head into this year's Christmas season - stressed? Hurried? Relaxed? Something else?

BIG THOUGHT

Jesus serves as the complete fulfillment of Isaiah's prophetic description of God's Messiah who brings deliverance and establishes an everlasting and righteous kingdom.

Dig

1. In our passage for today, Isaiah writes about the great King who will come to set things right. Read Isaiah 9:1. How does Isaiah describe the state of the nation of Israel? (v. 1a) What, though, does he say about the future? (v. 1b) How do you think it encouraged the nation to know that relief was on the way?
2. Now read v. 2-3. What will God bring to shatter the "gloom" described in v. 1? (v. 2) How will the people respond to what God will do? (v. 3b) Have you ever experienced God breaking through your circumstances in a similar way to this? Share with the group if you can...

3. Read v. 4-5. What does God specifically do that will bring joy to the people? What are some of the things that "oppress" people today? How complete will be God's deliverance? (v. 5) Is it easy for you to feel that kind of confidence in God's care for you? Explain.
4. Now read v. 6. What is the means by which God will accomplish the promises of v. 2-5? If you had been there to read Isaiah's prophecy at the time he wrote it, would you have thought it odd that the nation's deliverance would come through a child? Why or why not? Which of the titles—Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace—particularly describes God as you have known him during a time of difficulty? Explain.
5. Read v. 7. What do we learn about the permanence and power of the rule of the Messiah ("the son")? Whose family line will he be in and what kind of a ruler will he be? Why?
6. To finish, read Mathew 1:1-16 and Matthew 4:13-17. What does it mean for you to know that Matthew, one of Jesus' twelve disciples and the writer of the book of Matthew, wanted to make sure his readers understood that Jesus is the direct fulfillment of Isaiah's words? How can this encourage your own faith during this Christmas season?

Take it Further

Talk with God and thank Him for the miracle of sending Jesus as His Messiah - and confirming it through Isaiah's prophecy!

Daily Readings

Day 1: John 4:26
Day 2: Matthew 16:16
Day 3: John 20:31

Day 4: Galatians 4:4-5
Day 5: Mark 8:27-30
Day 6: John 3:16

Memory Verse: Isaiah 9:6



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