



2020
CHRISTMAS
Turn off the Darkness

WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

[Isaiah 9:6](#); [Hebrews 4:14-16](#)

SERMON SUMMARY....

Through the prophet Isaiah, God made a promise to a people living in a land of **'deep darkness'** that He would send a **'Light'** to turn off the darkness ([Isaiah 7:14](#), [9:2](#)). Jesus is the fulfilment of that promise. The question is: **HOW** would Jesus turn off the darkness? What is it about Jesus, namely who He is that would turn off the darkness?

700+ years before the birth of Jesus, Isaiah helps us understand how Jesus would turn off the darkness in the names or titles that he ascribes to Jesus. We are focusing in on one verse over the next four-weeks, but let's not forget the context in which this one verse is found. The nation of Israel led by Ahaz, a very wicked king living in 'dark days' (remember we studied Ahaz in the first week of this series; described in 2 Kings 16 and Isaiah 7 through 9). God promises to send a Redeemer, One who would will light up the darkness. In the New Testament ([Matthew 1:18-25](#) and [John 1:1-5](#)), we discover that Jesus, born of a virgin, is the fulfilment of [Isaiah 7:14](#) and [9:2](#).

This week, we explore how Jesus as **'Wonderful Counselor'** turns off the darkness.

BIBLE STUDY and DISCUSSION...

1. Read [Isaiah 3:1-3](#) and [Isaiah 5:21](#). What do these verses tell you about the people's source of wisdom and hope? What does 'worldly' wisdom lead to and how does this differ from the wisdom of God (for further reference, see [James 3:15-18](#))?
2. Look up the word *counselor* in the dictionary. The word Isaiah uses for 'counselor' in Hebrew means – *'someone who advises, instructs and guides through problems from a position of authority.'* How is this definition different from how we typically define or understand the role of counselors in our life?
3. Read [Hebrews 4:14-16](#). According to these verses, why is Jesus uniquely and perfectly qualified to serve as our 'Wonderful Counselor?' How does this information (namely, that he faced all the things that we face but was without sin) help us through our 'dark times?'
4. Considering how the Israelite people were 'living in a land of deep darkness' ([Isaiah 9:2](#)), seeking and following ungodly counsel, how would the title/name 'Wonderful Counselor' bring encouragement and hope? How should knowing that we not only receive the council we desperately need, but receive the 'Counselor' Himself who is with us at all times in our lives, bring us great hope and encouragement?

ACT... (Apply biblical truth, Commit to Pray, Take a next step)

What can you do to practice walking with Jesus as 'Wonderful Counselor' throughout your day?

Who might need to hear about your experiences of Jesus as 'Wonderful Counselor'?

Pray over areas in which you need wise counsel, and pray for the "One" for whom you wish Jesus would turn off the darkness.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT GENESIS...

Sunday, December 13th – Family Worship Service (3:30 – 4:30 pm, RSVP online)

Christmas Eve Worship Services:

- Wednesday, December 23rd – 7PM
- Thursday, December 24th – 5PM & 7PM

VIRTUAL - ONLY worship gatherings on Sunday, December 27th and January 3rd