

Unto Us

Hope For Everyone

Week One | Wonderful Counselor | 11.28-29.2020

Grow Deep Conversation Questions: Use these questions to help you process the message in your personal time of study or with your group. Time suggestions are based on a 90-minute group gathering.

Message Recap: Christmas can become a habit that we think we understand. Sometimes our need for traditions trumps what the tradition represents. Christmas is about Jesus. When Jesus came, He came **unto us** to be our: **Wonderful Counselor**, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. What if we put down our expectations and experienced the Jesus that actually lived and changed everything?

- » **Opening** (2-3 minutes)
- Introductions - this is especially important if this is your first meeting and if there are new members
 - Housekeeping - clarify expectations
 - **Announcements:** These are in your Community News email. **Please read and communicate! Encourage participation!**
 - Remind your group that this is a confidential meeting
 - **Remember, there may be many thoughts and views. Please remain kind and respectful during conversations.**
 - Pray - open your time together in prayer
- » **Introduction** (12 minutes)
- Ice-Breaker: What is your favorite Christmas tradition? Why do you look forward to it so much?
 - Digging Deeper: How do you respond if your traditions are changed or look different?
- » **Observation** | Read Isaiah 9:6; Luke 1:26-38 (12 minutes)
- What are your initial reactions to these passages? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses? Why?
- » **Key Principle** | **When you're unsure of life, God is sure of love.** (12 minutes)
- How are you celebrating Christmas and the holidays differently this year?
 - How does the practice of advent and the classic Christmas story help you during all of the uncertainties of our day?
- » **Wonderful Counselor** | Reference Isaiah 9:6 (12 minutes)
- What can you do to still find wonder during this time? How has Jesus been a "Wonderful Counselor" in your life or someone you know?
- » **Angelic Confrontation** | Reference Luke 1:26-34 (12 minutes)
- How did Gabriel greet Mary? What are the names and characteristics the angel used to describe Jesus? How did Mary respond?
- » **Miraculous Conceptions** | Reference Luke 1:35-38 (12 minutes)
- If Jesus didn't make Mary's life easier, how do you think He made her life better? How has Jesus made your life better, even in 2020?
- » **Next Steps and Prayer** | (15 minutes)
- How will you experience God's love this Christmas?
 - Who can you invite into this time of celebration, even electronically, to help them experience it too?
 - Close by praying for each other to slow down this Advent season to spend some time anticipating and reflecting on the birth of Jesus.