Introduction:

**English definition of hope** – A wish or desire with anticipation for a specific positive outcome.

**Biblical definition of hope** – An unshakable promise or guarantee from God concerning a future event or outcome for your good.

For a child will be born to us, a Son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

**Question: What do counselors do?**

- They give you ________________.

- They give you ________________ to work through your issues.

- They give you ________________ about how you are wired.
The Hope of Christmas
(Part 1)

What is a Wonderful Counselor?
Wonderful Counselor = Supernatural Counselor

Three counseling sessions from Jesus

Counseling session #1
- Counselee: Rich, young, successful, moral person
- The presenting problem: Restlessness
- The real issue: Address idolatry (have no other god before Me)

Counseling session #2
- Counselee: A harried woman
- The presenting problem: Overwhelmed and stressed
- The real issue: Address priorities
Counseling session #3

- **Counselee:** You and me

**Four wisdom principles to follow this Christmas:**

1. Stuff will never ________________________.

2. Being good is never ____________________ ____________________.

3. Your activities for God and others can __________________________ your relationship with God and others.

4. If you are too busy to listen and pray, you’re too ____________________________.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What’s the difference between the English definition of “hope” and the biblical definition of “hope”?

2. Which of the counseling sessions with Jesus spoke to you? Why?

3. What wisdom from Jesus do you need to apply (act on) to your life this Christmas season? Who will you share this with?