

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.

What is a Wonderful Counselor?

Wonderful Counselor = Supernatural Counselor

Judges 13:18

Three counseling sessions from Jesus

Counseling session #1

Mark 10:17-23

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

Counseling session #2

Luke 10:38-42

- **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?