

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 **WISDOM**.
- They give you **TOOLS** to work through your issues.
- They give you **INSIGHT** 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 **SATISFY**.
2. Being good is never **GOOD ENOUGH**.
3. Your activities for God and others can **DESTROY** your relationship with God and others.
4. If you are too busy to listen and pray, you're too **BUSY**.

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?

Introduction: What do you expect this Christmas?

Principle:

What you consciously or unconsciously expect to happen, even how you think God will work or might work, can blind you to God actually working in a way that is different than you expect.

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Isaiah 9:6

Mighty God in Hebrew – Deliverer, Rescuer, Irresistible Champion, All-Powerful One

Three parables that describe the Kingdom of God:

1. The Kingdom of God is like a lamp – God’s Word comes into the world to illuminate, make things clear, and to reveal truth.
2. The Kingdom of God is like a growing seed – The power of God’s Word in a human heart brings transformation over time.
3. The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed – People respond to the truth and then there is exponential growth.

Four impossible situations

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|----------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Jesus calms the sea. | Mark 4:35-41 |
| 2. Jesus heals a demoniac. | Mark 5:1-20 |
| 3. Jesus heals a woman. | Mark 5:21-34 |
| 4. Jesus resurrects a dead girl. | Mark 5:21-43 |

Summary

1. He is the Lord over the **NATURAL** realm.
2. He is the Lord over the **SPIRITUAL** realm.
3. He is the Lord over the **PHYSICAL** realm.
4. He is the Lord over the **ETERNAL** realm.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do your expectations of what/how you think God should work, impair your ability to recognize Him at work?
2. How did Jesus demonstrate His divinity and authority in Mark 4:35-5:43?
3. Do you struggle to believe that God governs over the natural, spiritual, physical, or eternal realm? If so, why?
4. What is the biggest obstacle, circumstance, or relationship in which you need to see God's power prevail?
5. Describe a time when God has intervened in your life.

Introduction: What is your biggest fear this Christmas?

God came to the earth to save you from your sin and to deliver you from your fears.

Four things a good father does:

1. A good father **PROVIDES** for his family.
2. A good father **PROTECTS** his family.
3. A good father **INSTRUCTS** his family.
4. A good father **LISTENS** and takes care of the hurts and needs in the process.

¹“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. ⁷If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him.” ⁸Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know Me, Philip? Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own authority, but the Father who dwells in Me does His works. ¹¹Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

John 14:1-11

Jesus came to explain the Father

John 1:18

The core issue = we have a faulty view of God.

Your view of God impacts:

- How you think
- Your relationships with others
- How you see yourself

What the Father is really like

- A call to remember: God is good, kind, and loving. Psalm 103:1-5

- God made His ways known to Moses and the Israelites. Psalm 103:7

- God is merciful, gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Psalm 103:8

- God desires to forgive and He cares. Psalm 103:9-10

- God loves like no one else. Psalm 103:11-12

- God is approachable. Psalm 103:13-14

Discussion Questions:

1. What is your greatest fear this Christmas season or in this season of your life?
2. How would you describe your relationship with your earthly father in your formative years? How has that influenced your view of your Heavenly Father?
3. What major misconceptions about God did first century Jews have? Which ones do you identify with?
4. According to John 1:14-18, what did Jesus reveal about God? Compare this with John 14:8-11. What new insights did you gain about the Fatherhood of God from this message?
5. How did Jesus address the fears and misconceptions of the disciples when they faced uncertainty, danger, and death?
6. How can you “not let your heart be troubled (fearful)” this Christmas, according to Jesus (John 14:1-3)?

Introduction:

⁶ For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9:6-7

Question #1: Who is this Child?

Answer:

- **Wonderful COUNSELOR:** Christ sees humanity's brokenness, hurt, and our need for wisdom.
- **Mighty GOD:** Christ empowers us to live righteously.
- **Everlasting FATHER:** Christ gives us eternal hope.
- **Prince of PEACE:** Christ is the Prince of Peace.

Question #2: Why did Jesus come?

Answer:

- He came to **SAVE**.
- He came to **RESCUE**.
- He came to **DELIVER**.
- He came to be the **PRINCE OF PEACE**.

Four basic meanings of “shalom”

1. Health
2. Harmony
3. Fulfillment
4. Victor over enemies

Question #3: Where is the peace that Jesus promised?

Answer:

- The peace that Jesus promised is entrusted to Christ-followers.
- Peace is a gift from God.

Question #4: What do you really need?

Answer:

- Lasting peace

Question #5: How do you get that peace?

Answer:

- Peace is a gift.
- Through the blood of Jesus Christ.

1 John 5:12

Discussion Questions:

1. Jesus is a Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace. Which of these four characteristics do you need to remember during this season of life?
2. How does understanding “shalom” give you a better perspective of the peace that Christ offers?
3. Have you received the gift of peace that God offers? If not, will you take that step today?
4. How can you share the peace of God in your life with others?