

NOTES



PRAYER

*Lord Jesus, May we always recognise the beauty of what and who has been given to us in the salvation and peace you give us in your son Jesus.
Amen.*

OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

What is the most treasured gift you received as a child? Why?

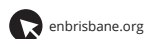


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WORD

*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

[Isaiah 9:6](#)

Jesus is the Giver and the Gift.

Isaiah describes the child as a “son given” to sit on the throne by “the zeal of the LORD.” Israel’s peace and prosperity rested not in their ability to create a government but to receive a gift. They could not contribute to their strength or salvation. The people’s deliverance arrives not with their shouldering power but when the burden of rule is laid upon His shoulders. The LORD is the Giver of freedom and comfort. It’s all His entire doing, not humanity. He will establish a fixed and final kingdom and uphold it with justice and righteousness. The LORD is not only the Giver, but He’s the Gift.

God’s gift is not just His kingly rule but a relationship. God’s answer to our problems and burdens is His very own Son – one who will be born, grow as a child, and live as the supreme servant. God’s power is superior to His enemies that He can defeat them by becoming an infant; His answer to the bullies of history is becoming a baby. In Scripture, and especially the prophetic nativity message, we discover God’s secret to world peace is not crushing enemies but crucified humility. Jesus will be king not by military force but merciful compassion. This is the kingdom that “there will be no end.” The empire of truth and grace will gloriously expand, broaden, widen, deepen, intensify, and multiply. Our finite experience of God will grow wonderfully infinite, and every new moment will be better than the last.

[JD Greear on Isaiah 9](#)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

((NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE))

1. On a scale from 1 to 10 (1 being never and 10 being always), how would you rate the depth of your relationship with Jesus? Why have you rated yourself this way?
2. Reading this passage describes Jesus as the Son given for us as the Almighty sent into a place of vulnerability as the Prince of Peace. Where is one area of society that you hope to see His peace reign whether in the world or in your sphere of life?
3. What does it mean for you personally that Jesus entered into time and history as the Wonderful Counselor? Can you describe what this means for your life?
4. Do you want to trust Jesus as the Wonderful Counsellor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace? Please take this moment to pray with your group. Will you enable him to have all authority as the one who calls the shots in your life? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your lifegroup leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to be the master of my life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Saviour. I declare that I am Yours, and You are mine, In Jesus name, AMEN.