

Small Group Questions

1. What are some things about the Christmas season that we should not take for granted?
2. Why isn't this season a joyful time for everyone? Do you know someone who might be struggling with the Christmas season? If so, what could you do to encourage and comfort them?

Read: Is. 9:6 NASB "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."

3. Do you think that the wonder of the virgin Birth has been losing its savor over the years? Why or why not?
4. The scripture tells us in Is. 9:6 that the government will rest on Jesus' shoulders, what does this mean? Why is this so significant?

Read: 2Cor. 5:10 NIV "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."

5. What should this scripture cause us to do?

Read: Luke 4:18-19 AMP "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me (the Messiah), Because He has anointed Me to preach the good news to the poor. He has sent Me to announce release (pardon, forgiveness) to the captives,

And recovery of sight to the blind, To set free those who are oppressed (downtrodden, bruised, crushed by tragedy), to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord [the day when salvation and the favor of God abound greatly]."

6. Jesus is called our Mighty Counselor, what is so significant about this title?
7. What has changed in the world today that has caused such an influx in people seeking a counselor?

Read: Ps. 16:7-8 HCSB "I will praise the Lord who counsels me—even at night my conscience instructs me. I keep the Lord in mind always. because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken."

King David, was acquainted with much suffering and trials, and he was well aware of the fact that it was the Lord who was counseling him.

8. What was the Lord doing in king David's his life through his suffering and trials? What do you think the Lord is doing in your life through your suffering and trials?

9. What is the Lord's purpose in using suffering and trials in our lives? Heb. 5:8, Rom. 8:28

10. Jesus is the Mighty Counselor, why do you think that some find it difficult to open up their hearts to Him?

Read: Jn. 14:27 NASB "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful."

11. What are some misconceptions about peace?

12. What is the kind of peace that the world gives?

13. What is the peace that Jesus gives to us?

Read: Is. 26:3 NLT says, "You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!"

14. How does trusting in the Lord keep us in perfect peace? Is. 43:2