



Wonderful Counselor – Week 4

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Overview

In this fourth message of the series entitled, ***Winning Over Worry***, we will learn that we can overcome worry by living and abiding in the presence of Jesus.

Discussion Questions

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

The prophet Isaiah tells us that Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor! These two English words come from two Hebrew words, *pele'* and *ya'ats*. *Pele'* means beyond understanding, too wonderful for words. *Ya'ats* means to advise, to consult, to guide.

The Wonderful Counselor comes for the sick.

...“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.” (Luke 5:31-32)

Because of sin in the world, we all battle with anxieties, weaknesses, vulnerabilities, strongholds, and dysfunctions. We are all sick in different areas and at different points in our lives. It is important that we acknowledge where we are sick and remember the Good News. There's a Wonderful Counselor, Jesus, and He came for the sick.

Three Ways to Gain Perspective and Peace from the Wonderful Counselor.

1. Be brutally honest with the Counselor.

If we want to receive help from any counselor, it is important that we are honest. In John chapter 4, Jesus meets a woman at a well. John 4:17 says, **“The woman answered and said, ‘I have no husband.’ Jesus said to her, ‘You have well said, ‘I have no husband,’ for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.”**

Because she was honest with him, Jesus continued to speak with her. He revealed to her that He is the living water, and He is what she has been searching for her entire life. Jesus was able to show who He is and who He should be in her life because she was honest with Him.

- Why is it difficult sometimes to be brutally honest with God?

- What are some things that hold us back from being completely honest with Him?

2. Listen to the Counselor's voice.

In Mark 9:7, God says, "...'**This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!**'" Jesus is the Wonderful Counselor who speaks. There are many different ways we can hear Jesus speak: His Word, daily devotionals, worship, pastors, people, small groups, music, circumstances, and many other ways. You can recognize the voice of the Wonderful Counselor as you learn to listen to Him.

In John 10:27, Jesus says, "**My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.**"

- What are some ways you hear God's voice?
- How do you feel after He speaks to you?

3. Do what the Counselor tells us to do.

When He speaks, we must do what He tells us to do regardless of if we want to or understand. Sometimes, Jesus will ask us to do many things that do not make sense to our natural minds. Peace comes in our hearts when we are obedient and we can leave the results to Him.

In Matthew 12, Jesus came upon a man who lived a long time with a withered hand. Matthew 12:13 says, "...'**Stretch out your hand.**' **And he stretched it out, and it was restored as whole as the other.**" When Jesus asked the man to stretch out his hand, the man responded in faith to what Jesus asked him to do and experienced healing.

- How can our unwillingness to follow God's commands result in a lack of faith?
- Why is it hard for us sometimes to be obedient to what Jesus says?
- Why is it worth being obedient to Him?
- Give an example of a time you responded in faith to what God told you to do. What was the outcome?

Life Challenge

This week, spend time with God and ask Him to reveal the areas in your life where you are sick. The Wonderful Counselor wants to heal these areas in your life. Proverbs 28:13 says, "**He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.**" Be honest with Him, listen to His voice, and respond in faith when He gives you instruction.

Prayer

Jesus, we thank You for being our Wonderful Counselor. We ask that You expose any sickness in us so that You can begin to heal us. Give us the courage to be completely honest with You, and help us to respond in faith when You give us direction. Amen. Pray for the specific needs of the group.