

# Wonderful Counselor

## DAY 1 — LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

### SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 9:1, ROMANS 8:22

Christmas reminds us that the world is dark — but darkness doesn't get the last word.

Judah faced fear, division, political chaos, and hopelessness. Our world today doesn't feel much different — displacement, mental health battles, hunger, persecution. The world groans, and sometimes our lives groan too. We decorate the darkness, smile in photos, hang lights, and hope no one sees the parts of us that aren't okay. But God speaks through Isaiah: "The time of darkness will not go on forever." Jesus steps into the darkness we can't escape. Christmas is God's declaration: Light is coming for you.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Where does darkness feel heavy in your life right now?
- Do you believe God can break through the places that feel hopeless?

## PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Jesus, shine Your light in the places of my life that feel heavy or hidden. Remind me that darkness does not win.

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## DAY 2 — A GIFT YOU COULD NEVER AFFORD

### SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 9:6, MATTHEW 1:23

God's solution was not advice — it was a Person.

When the world needed rescuing, God didn't send instructions, a life-hack list, or a spiritual to-do manual. He didn't ask us to climb out of the darkness. He came into it. As C.S. Lewis said, if Hamlet were to meet Shakespeare, Shakespeare must write himself into the story — and that's exactly what God did in Jesus. He wrote Himself into our story.

You can't afford this gift. You can't earn it. You just receive it.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do you treat Jesus more like life advice than a saving presence?
- What would change if you lived like God is truly with you today?

## PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Father, thank You for sending Jesus into my darkness. Help me receive Him, not as an idea, but as the Savior I truly need.

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## DAY 3 — RECOVERING THE WONDER YOU'VE LOST

### SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 9:6

Real wonder isn't found in things — it's found in Jesus.

We chase the Christmas "feeling" — lights, gifts, traditions, music. But by January, the wonder is gone and the credit card statement has arrived. The Hebrew word for "Wonderful" is *Pele* — miraculous, extraordinary, beyond understanding. The wonder your soul longs for isn't sold in stores. It sits in a manger and reigns from an empty tomb.

When you rediscover Jesus, you rediscover wonder.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Where have you been trying to create your own sense of wonder?
- What practices help you slow down and truly behold Jesus during this season?

### PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Jesus, restore my awe. I don't want manufactured wonder — I want the real wonder that comes from knowing You.



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## DAY 4 — JESUS IS THE COUNSELOR YOU NEED

### SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 9:6, LUKE 1:38

Jesus does more than diagnose your problems — He delivers you from them. We Google everything. We chase podcasts, life hacks, reels, self-help gurus, and motivational quotes. But Jesus is not a life coach — He is the Wonderful Counselor — the divine strategist, the King's war-room genius. He doesn't just offer clarity; He leads you into victory.

True counseling with Jesus sounds like:

He speaks → you listen.

He guides → you go.

He acts → you surrender.

Like Mary, the posture of transformation is, "I am the Lord's servant... may it be to me as You have said."

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Where are you seeking advice instead of surrendering to Jesus' leadership?
- What has Jesus already spoken that you have not yet obeyed?

## PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Lord, You are my counselor and my strategist. Speak, and give me the courage to respond in obedience.

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## DAY 5 — RECEIVING THE GIFT YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO EARN

### SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 9:6

If you're tired of trying to fix your life, Christmas is for you.

We often work ourselves to exhaustion trying to manufacture a better life, create our own peace, win our own battles, and craft our own wonder. But Isaiah's prophecy interrupts our striving: "To us a child is born, to us a son is given." The gift has already been given — not earned.

What if this year you stopped trying to create your own wonder?

What if you stopped trying to fix your own life?

What if you simply received the Wonderful Counselor?

He has already done the heavy lifting.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What are you still trying to fix on your own strength?
- What would it look like to fully receive Jesus rather than strive for control?

## PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Jesus, I lay down my striving. I receive the gift of Your presence, Your counsel, and Your peace. Lead me into the wonder only You can give.