



# Sermon Growth Guide

**December 1, 2024**

**What Do You Name Him - Wonderful Counselor**

**Hebrews 4:13-16**

**Key Verse:** Hebrews 4:15

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.”

**Big Idea:** Jesus is the Wonderful Counselor of Isaiah 9:6. Trust him to come into your life with your best interests at heart!

## Foundations

In Isaiah 9:6, the prophet foretells of the coming messiah and gives him a series of names, “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”

Like a mirror exposing unseen flaws, Jesus, the Wonderful Counselor, reveals the hidden “bald spots” of sin, pride, and brokenness in our lives. Hebrews reminds us that nothing is hidden from God, who sees us fully. He knows us completely and is well aware of our triumphs, successes, sins, and failures, even more fully than we are.

The good news is that Jesus, our Great High Priest, empathizes with our weakness, having faced temptation yet remaining sinless (Hebrews 4:15). We see his empathy on display throughout the gospels. He is not distant but walks with us in our struggles, offering compassion, understanding, hope, and healing.

As the Wonderful Counselor, Jesus restores and heals us where we feel stuck, offering grace and mercy without condemnation (Romans 8:1).

This Advent, may you trust the Wonderful Counselor to come into your life to help with your best interests at heart. May you be awakened to more and more of Christ’s character. And may your faith be deepened as you are transformed by Him!

## Understanding God’s Word

Together, read Isaiah 9:6 and Hebrews 4:13-16.

What comes to mind when you think about Jesus being described as the “Wonderful Counselor?” Where in the Gospels do you see Jesus holding up a mirror to people’s lives? Where do you see Jesus’s empathy on display in the Gospels? What significance might we draw from the statement that Jesus was tempted in every way but did not sin? Where do you see Jesus offering healing and hope?

## Applying God’s Word

John Calvin wrote, “Without knowledge of self there is no knowledge of God... Without knowledge of God, there is no knowledge of self.” What do you think about that statement? Can you describe a time when God revealed something about you that was hard to accept but led to transformation? How might the knowledge that Jesus empathizes with our weaknesses influence how you approach Him?

## Witnessing God’s Word

How does Jesus’ example of empathy challenge how we interact with those who are lost in our world? In what ways might the church reflect Jesus’ qualities as a Wonderful Counselor to the community? How might you share the message of Jesus’ empathy and grace with someone who feels distant from God this Advent? of Christ.