

## Small Group Questions

For 12/04/11

### Introduction (Use one or all)

It can be a tough time during the holidays for a lot of people. Do you typically look forward to the Christmas holidays or do you dread them?

What is your favorite Christmas movie and why?

### Discussion

This week we looked at started a new series and looked at Isaiah 9:6 *“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.”*

Norton mentioned his initial thoughts when he hears the words “wonderful” and “counselor”, and then with them together as “wonderful counselor”. What initially comes into your mind when you hear this term?

We learned that God is a “wonder working God”, seeking to draw us near to him even when we are turned away as read in Isa 29:13-14:

*The Lord says: “These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught Therefore once more I will astound these people with wonder upon wonder.”*

Can you share a story or situation where God did something or used someone to turn you towards him in a small or big way?

Norton raised a different perspective on the word “counselor” and illuminated the fact that it can also refer to the concept of one who plots or plans.

Does the idea of God plotting or planning your life scare you or comfort you?

Have you experienced God’s hand in shaping or planning your life or aspects of it?

How can we take steps to be more “aware of” or “open to” God’s work of wonder and planning in our own lives?

**Prayer:** Lord help us to see your works of wonder and your hands of direction in our lives.

