



## Advent – Hope Awakening - Study Guide

Week 2 – Wonderful Counsellor - Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020

1. What do you think about the difference between hope and optimism?

Please read Isaiah 9.1-3

2. Given the fact that Zebulun and Naphtali have been humbled by God for turning to darkness from his light, what does v 3 tell us about God?

Please read Isaiah 9.3-7; Matthew 4.12-17

Verses 3-5 promise to Zebulun and Naphtali that when the great light comes, he will bring them rejoicing in their restoration and expansion; he will overcome the oppressor permanently. He will shatter the yoke that burdens them.

3. Why does this promise seem optimistic for carrying on the shoulders of one child/man?
4. How do the descriptions of the promised King in verses 6-7 give us hope that he can carry the weight of these promises, not only for Zebulun and Naphtali, but for all of us.
5. How does Jesus take personal responsibility (on his shoulders) for overcoming the oppressor and shattering the yoke that holds us in oppressive captivity?

Isaiah 9.6 – He will be called Wonderful Counsellor

For a more helpful way of thinking about the meaning of 'wonderful', think Signs and Wonders – the uniquely divine works of God.

Please read Psalm 78.11-14; Isaiah 40.9, 13-14, 25-26, 28-31; Isaiah 11.1-4

6. How do these descriptions shape your confidence in Jesus, the Wonderful Counsellor?
7. We can admire the counsel of Jesus, without taking the counsel of Jesus. Are you taking Jesus' counsel, or admiring it whilst doing your own thing?
8. In Matthew 12.12-17, Jesus fulfils the promise of God to restore – but it still required their repentance. Our renewal and restoration will require the same. Take time to repent and renew faith in Jesus – our Wonderful Counsellor.