

God With Us: 1 of 4
“Our Wonderful Counselor”
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
December 8, 2019

Big Idea: Christmas is about God keeping His promise that we will never be alone because God is with us.

“The Lord Himself will give you the sign. Look! The **virgin** will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call Him **Immanuel** (which means ‘God is with us’).”
Isaiah 7:14 (NLT2)

“Nevertheless, that time of **darkness** and **despair** will not go on forever. The land of Zebulun and Naphtali will be humbled, but there will be a time in the future when Galilee of the Gentiles, which lies along the road that runs between the Jordan and the sea, will be filled with glory. The people who **walk in darkness will see a great light**. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, **a light will shine**.”
Isaiah 9:1-2 (NLT2)

“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.” **Isaiah 9:6-7a (NIV) Remember Verse**

I Can Trust God Is With Me Because:

1. He Is My Wonderful Counselor Who _____ My Struggles
 “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “**God with us**.” **Matthew 1:23 (NIV)**

“Because God’s children are **human** beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could **He break the power of the devil**, who had the power of death.”
Hebrews 2:14 (NLT2)

“Therefore, it was **necessary** for Him to be made in every respect **like us**, His brothers and sisters, so that He could be our **merciful** and faithful High Priest before God. Then He could offer a **sacrifice** that would take away the sins of the people. Since He Himself has gone through suffering and testing, He is **able** to help us when we are being tested.” **Hebrews 2:17-18 (NLT2)**

Notes: _____

2. He Is My Wonderful Counselor Who _____ For My Needs

“That is why I tell you **not to worry** about **everyday life**—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing? Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far **more valuable** to him than they are? Can all your worries **add** a single moment to your life?”

Matthew 6:25-27 (NLT2)

“Give all your **worries** and **cares** to God, for **He cares about you.**”

1 Peter 5:7 (NLT2)

Notes: _____

3. He Is My Wonderful Counselor Who Is _____

“God is our **refuge** and **strength**, an **ever-present** help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. Selah

Psalms 46:1-3 (NIV)

“This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His **mercy**, and we will find **grace** to help us when we need it most.” **Hebrews 4:15-16 (NLT2)**

“For if you **confess with your mouth** that Jesus is Lord and **believe in your heart** that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” **Romans 10:9 (NLT)**

Notes: _____

- Am I fully embracing God as my Counselor who fully understands, who cares for my needs, and who is always available?

My next right step, I will:

- Read this week’s Talk It Over and journal down my personal application
- Trust that Jesus understands my struggles
- Accept God’s gift of salvation



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Family Corner: [Choose one day this week to ask questions to go deeper in faith as a family. Try this over dinner. Keep it to 12 minutes or less.]

Read The History of The Candy Cane by Laura Witcher Goldstein

<http://www.noelnoel.com/trad/candycane.html>

Make a family memory: Peppermint Bark

Prep time: 30 mins

Cook time: 2 mins

Total time: 32 mins

Serves: 15

Ingredients

- 24 oz of white chocolate chips
- 24 oz semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 2 boxes of candy canes

Instructions

1. In a microwave-safe bowl melt semi-sweet chocolate chips in the microwave for 60 seconds, stir and repeat for an additional 60 seconds.
2. Place parchment paper on top of a cookie sheet and spread melted chocolate over top.
3. Place in refrigerator until set and hardened (approx. 20 mins).
4. Melt white chocolate chips the same way.
5. Unwrap candy canes and place in a large Ziploc bag and crush with a mallet.
6. Place 1 cup of crushed candy canes into the melted white chocolate.
7. Pour white chocolate on top of hardened dark chocolate and sprinkle with the leftover crushed candy cane.
8. Place in refrigerator for 2 hours until well set and hardened.
9. Take out and break into pieces. Enjoy!

Small Groups: [Choose as many questions that honors your group's time commitment]

Open in Prayer:

- What thoughts from this week's message encourages me to live a life for Jesus?

Icebreaker:

Share a favorite family Christmas tradition.

Read Isaiah 9:6-7

What stands out about who God will send?

Big Idea: Christmas is about God keeping His promise that we will never be alone because God is with us.

I Can Trust God Is With Me Because:

1. He Is My Wonderful Counselor Who Understands My Struggles

Hebrews 2:14-18

Why was it necessary for Jesus to become human?

What struggle do I feel is hard for God to understand?

List the struggles Jesus went through.

To help you get started, here are a few passages:

- Temptation - Matthew 4
- Hypocrisy - John 8
- Anxiety for the future - Luke 22:39-44
- Betrayed – Matthew 26:14-16
- Political - Matthew 21:46 John 18:28–19:16
- Far from God – Matthew 27:46
- Ridiculed - Luke 22:63-65
- Socially Rejected - Luke 23:18-23
- Physical pain - Luke 23:32-33

2. He Is My Wonderful Counselor Who Cares For My Needs

Matthew 6:25-27

Which of my everyday life issues do I worry about the most?

Has God provided what I need?

Do I believe that I am valuable to God?

1 Peter 5:7

Write out a prayer giving my worries over to God.

3. He Is My Wonderful Counselor Who Is Always Available

Psalms 46:1-3

How does this verse help me understand God better?

Hebrews 4:15-16

What is God's invitation for us? What does this mean to me personally?

Romans 10:9

What must we do in order to begin a relationship with God?

Am I fully embracing God as my Counselor who fully understands, who cares for my needs, and who is always available?

Close in Prayer: Start praying. Be bold and pray specifically.