

Bring Some  
HOPE

God's people are in a season of suffering, but also discipline

- Remnant/Rest, but all are in a bad place
- *Isaiah 9:2-5 - The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.*

Our experience - things done to us, things that are our fault, suffering at the hands of others.

And what is the glorious solution to all of this?

- *Isaiah 9:6 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder...*

Doesn't seem right... the disconnect:

Our tidy Christmas decorating vs. the peril and heartbreak of so many right now.

The horror of the world we are in today. If it's not the current conflict, it's the shootings. It's the poverty. It's the starvation. It's the perversion of the world we live in.

How can the solution to it all be a child? "Hey... where's the church??"

No matter how you feel about the prescription, the titles come...

AND HIS NAME SHALL BE... WONDERFUL COUNSELOR *we are used to it, but a bit strange, no?*

Where do we get counsel?

- When you are sitting in a moment of need, what do you grab?
- Our tendency to seek elsewhere, everywhere... and I get it!
- There are many people who know more than me about a lot of things.

Turning 34 is a wild journey. "Wait until you turn... let me have my moment!"

- Sleep. Wow this is challenging now? Even with a toddler that sleeps well?
- Diet. Default heartburn? I need some counsel.
- Raising a boy. My default plan was outside, Star Wars, basketball, then sprinkle in some Robert Frost as he got older. There's nuance along the way?? What about when he's older??

*- You are wise!*

But what about when I can't sleep because of my life?

What about when I know what I should and shouldn't eat/drink but life is creeping in?

What about when I have a perfectly laid out budget but Black Friday rolls around?

What about when I am sufficiently moved or guilted by the books, blogs, or media accounts and still lose my patience with my boy?

Navigating life here in the Bay Area??? During an overseas crisis?? Am I doing enough??

What about when I feel like something must be done, but there's nothing I can do?

Our lack is not in information, it's in wisdom to apply it. This is where the frustration lies.

It is in a heart that can apply it.

It is in a life that can apply it.

You are in church or you are tuning into church, so I am here to introduce this Wonderful Counselor to you.

### Who is God?

Genesis - Sovereign

Job - preeminent, powerful, orchestrating

John - "If you've seen me, you've seen the father."

### The wisdom of Jesus

- *1 Corinthians 1:20-25 - Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*
- *Colossians 2:2-3 - Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

### So many long for wisdom but don't have it

OT Leaders

The life of Jesus

Don't be drawn to him because of the ancient wisdom, be drawn to him as a living God.

DEAD

ALIVE

### Here's the invitation of the wonderful counselor

*James 1:5 - If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.*

### Application.

God counsels through seeking and prayer.

"People are waiting to hear from God but they aren't having a conversation."

Ask people around you.

Rats in our complex - so many people who know about cars. My pride.

Do you think anyone else in this room has wrestled with that text before?

God counsels through others who have gone before you.

I hurt so many people as a young Christian in my judgementalism.

Do not let pride and ego get in the way of being formed NOW by the God that formed you in your mother's womb and has loved you from eternity past by sending his Son.

King in the line of David vs. the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He has so much more to offer.

At some point you will need others to seek the truth  
Prayer = safety

word/prayer