



*"For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called:*

*Wonderful Counsellor,  
Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace."*

*Isaiah 9:6*



**Get to Know You:** What's a promise you made that you really wanted to keep but couldn't?

1. **Read Genesis 3:1-15.** God's very first promise came in response to humanity's epic failure. What was at the heart (not the act) of this failure? Thinking about how God responded, what can we learn about God's character? Sometimes our first instinct is to hide from God(and others) when we fail. How can facing up to our failures help us to strengthen our relationship with both God and others?
2. **Read Isaiah 9:1-7.** Isaiah describes people who walk & live in a land of "deep darkness". What is the darkest "darkness" (literally) you have ever experienced? How did that feel. Isaiah prophesies of a light breaking into that darkness. What is the response? What are some of the benefits notes? What are some some examples of spiritual darkness you see in our world or our community right now? How can we help shine the light of Jesus into these spaces this Christmas?

3. **Ponder Isaiah 9:6–7.** Which of the names of Jesus—*Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*—means the most to you this year? Why?
4. **Read Genesis 12:1-3; Genesis 49:10; 2 Samuel 7:10–13.**  
How do these promises show that God’s plan was unfolding long before the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem? What does this tell you about God’s timing and His reliability? How can remembering God’s faithfulness and His timing help bring hope during difficulties in life?
5. **Read Romans 15:4 & Psalms 19:7-8.** These writers point to Scripture to give us *hope and encouragement*. What specific promise from the Bible has anchored you through a hard season?
6. **Read Hebrews 6:13-20.** What can we learn about God’s promises from these verses which stretch all the way back to God’s promise to Abram? How can God’s “unchangeable” promises and our hope in them act as “an anchor” for our souls when we are tempted to give up and walk away from faith? Has this ever happened to you? The good news is that even when we may feel like we cannot keep holding onto Jesus, He keeps holding onto us—He IS our anchor!

### **Reflection & Prayer**

Invite everyone to quietly reflect:

“What promise of God do I need to hold onto this Christmas?”

### **This Week’s Practice:**

- **Anchor Your Hope:** Write down one promise from Scripture to meditate on each day this week.
- **Pass It On:** Encourage someone struggling with disappointment—share one of God’s promises with them.
- **Act on Hope:** Do one act of kindness that helps someone else feel seen and valued this Christmas.