

**Above All Names | Wk 1 - Who is our Wonderful Counselor?****Big Idea**

As Wonderful Counselor, Jesus invites us into a wonder-filled life.

**Scripture**

Isaiah 9:6, Matthew 7:28-29, Matthew 15:30-31, and Luke 2:16-18

**Points to Keep In Mind**

1. Writing about 700 years before the birth of Jesus, the prophet Isaiah describes our coming King in Isaiah 9:6. The Hebrew word translated “wonderful” in this passage is the word “pelé” (not the soccer player, but the Hebrew word) and even though in English it comes across like an adjective “wonderful counselor,” “wonderful” in Hebrew is actually a noun. So, it’s not just that Jesus is a “Wonderful Counselor”; Jesus is a “Wonder!” This word (pelé) means extraordinary - hard to be understood and astounding in such a way that it causes a feeling or attitude of intense amazement – that’s who Jesus is! So, Isaiah is not merely saying the Messiah is wonderful; he is saying that the child born to us is a “wonder.”
2. The teachings that Jesus preached before Matthew 7:28-29 include the beatitudes, being salt and light, and fulfilling the Law. Jesus also redefines murder, adultery, divorce, oaths, retaliation, giving, prayer, fasting, treasures, worry, judging others, and true and false prophets and disciples. Jesus upended much of what the people have been taught up to this point, so it’s no wonder they were amazed.
8. Imagine being with Jesus in Matthew 15:30-31 and seeing this happen again and again and again! Jesus came to make right all that has gone wrong in our world, an undoing that only he can accomplish. Jesus still brings physical healing, but we also see his power at work when he brings healing to our hurts, relationships, disappointments, and failures. The wonder of Jesus is he can bring wholeness to the most painful and broken parts of our lives. He is wonderful.
9. Matthew 15:30-31 follows Jesus back to the Sea of Galilee on a mountaintop, primarily a Gentile region. The majority of the Gentiles were pagans at this time and worshipped many gods, so when they praised the “God of Israel,” they were clarifying that Jesus represented the God of the Israelites, the One True God.

**Additional Questions and Resources**

1. Where do you see God at work in your life right now?
2. What next steps do you feel called to take in your faith journey?
3. Have you considered getting baptized? [communitychristian.org/baptism](http://communitychristian.org/baptism)
4. What have you been learning from the Community Daily? [communitychristian.org/daily](http://communitychristian.org/daily)
5. If someone is seeking professional counseling, you can always refer them to our resource page: [communitychristian.org/mentalhealth/](http://communitychristian.org/mentalhealth/)
6. Find out more about having a YOU+ Discipleship Conversation by visiting: [youplus.info](http://youplus.info)