WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

Isaiah 9:1–7

Key Verse: 9:6

1. Who were those who were in “distress”? (9:1a; 8:19–22) What lands did God humble in the past (9:1b; cf. 2Ki15:29), how would he honor them in the future (9:1c–2; cf. Mt4:13–16), and what does this tell us about God? How can we experience this “great light”?
2. How else would God bless his people? (3) What lessons do “the day of Midian’s defeat” teach us? (4a; cf. Jdg7:1–25) How would God likewise “shatter” Israel’s enemies? (cf. 14:25; 37:36–38) What else is described, and what does it point to? (5; cf. 2:4)
3. Read verse 6a. How does this fulfill 7:14? How would this child’s birth bring God’s people light, joy and peace? (2–5) What does “the government will be on his shoulders” mean to us?
4. Read verse 6b. What does his name “Wonderful Counselor” mean? (cf. 11:2; 28:29; 29:14; Ps139:6) Why do we and all people need his counsel?
5. What does it mean that he is “Mighty God”? (10:21; 42:13) “Everlasting Father”? (Ps68: 5; Isa63:16; 64:8) “Prince of Peace”? (5–6; cf. 26:3,12; 53:5) How can we experience him in these ways? How else is his reign described, and what hope does it give us? (7)