





# COMMUNITY GUIDE

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## WELCOME & ENGAGE

- Spend time welcoming everyone as they arrive.
- Create an intentional environment.
- Watch the Ethos online experience.
- Sing, lean in, take notes, be vocal.

## OVERVIEW

Christmas can be a very difficult season for many people. It can highlight the loss of a loved one, reawaken old family drama, or even make us painfully aware of our loneliness. But even in that darkness, we can have hope because Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor who guides us from a position of authority. It may feel intimidating to approach God with your problems. What if He ignores you? What if He rejects you? What if you only receive judgement instead of mercy? These questions may seem reasonable, but they stem from thinking that God is like an angry boss, rather than a Wonderful Counselor. When we approach God with our problems, our sins, and our hopes; He sympathizes with our weaknesses and is eager to help us.

Jesus wants us to come to Him with our problems, our joys, our questions, and our hopes. He is both willing and able to help and heal us. But we have to come to Him in full honesty, be willing to change, and be ready to do what He says. In Him, we have a guide that is better than words can describe. Loosen your grip on your secrets, your fears, and your determination to follow your own counsel and allow Jesus to guide you. When you hand over your life to Jesus, light will overwhelm your darkness.

*"For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation."  
-Psalm 100:5 (NLT)-*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. God calls Jesus our Wonderful Counselor. In Hebrew, Wonderful Counselor roughly translates to "a guide whose goodness goes beyond words." Jordan stated that to approach our Wonderful Counselor; we have to be completely honest with Him. We have to want to be healed. We have to do whatever He says. In thinking about the "3 Ways to Approach Our Wonderful Counselor", which one stands out to you the most?
2. What does it mean to you that Jesus sympathizes with your weaknesses and pains?
3. Jordan asked, "Are you ready to do what Jesus says?" Jesus is our guide, and He will lead us by His Word and His Spirit. Do you trust Him enough to let Him call the shots? What does it look like for you to trust and do what Jesus says?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER

Father, thank you for giving us Jesus as our Wonderful Counselor. We pray that our hearts continually stay in a humbled place to be opened to receive His counsel. Help us to know that in Him are all the answer we need in this life. In Jesus' name, amen.

**IN THIS TOGETHER!**