



WARM-UP QUESTION: What trendy catchphrase or hashtag have you come across recently? (For example, YOLO.) How did you react to it?

READ: Isaiah 9:8-14

FOCUS: God is the ultimate counselor, source of peace and the everlasting Father who gives us significance.

OBSERVE:

- God is ultimate; He is the supreme being of the universe, no one stands beside Him or before Him, He is the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).
- Just like the Israelites, all of humanity rebels against God (Isaiah 9:8-14).
- Israel was called by God to make His name great and glorify Him, instead, they succumbed to ideologies around them, living for their own name's sake.
- God used the Assyrians to pronounce judgment on Israel. Yet, Israel did not respond in repentance. In pride, they claimed they would rebuild the city in their own strength.
- Today, the world encourages individuals to have faith in their own abilities and emphasizes seeking personal enjoyment. In contrast, followers of Jesus know that God is ultimate: all things are from Him, through Him and to Him (Romans 11:33-36).

TAKING ACTION:

- This week, write down catchphrases, slogans, hashtags or sayings that represent ideologies of the world.
- At the end of the week, sort through them and consider how God's truth contrasts with those ideas.

REFLECT:

- What do you need to give up in order to move from building a personal kingdom to building God's kingdom
- What ideologies of the world are most challenging for you to reject?
- How does God satisfy those longings when replaced with truth?

PRAY: Heavenly Father, You are ultimate. You are God alone. You are beyond our comprehension, understanding and imagination. There is nothing we can add to You or take away. Apart from Your love for us, we have no means to be saved. We praise and worship You for Your grace, mercy, love and justice. Thank You for becoming human like us in Jesus and paving a way for reconciliation. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit to know You better and make You known. May every false ideology in our hearts be undone by Your truth. We pray for revelation and repent for our misguided pride. Renew our minds and transform our hearts, in Jesus' Name, Amen.