

**Week of August 23, 2020**

**Matthew 16:13-20**

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

<sup>14</sup> And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

<sup>15</sup> He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

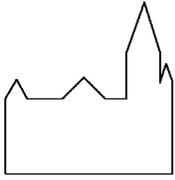
<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

<sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven.

<sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.

<sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

<sup>20</sup> Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.



### Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

### Gathering questions:

- A. What is the craziest thing that someone you personally know believes?
- B. What was your nickname? Why was it given to you?

### Bible Study Questions:

1. In verse 13, do you think Jesus is really interested in the answer? Why do you think he asked the question?
2. In verse 14, why do you think all of the answers are of dead people?
3. Do you think Peter suddenly arrived at his answer, or had he been thinking of this for some time?
4. Verse 19 has always been perplexing. Most believe it confers the authority of interpretation on the church; "bind" and "loose" roughly mean "forbid" and "permit." To what extent do you believe the church has the authority to determine morality?
5. When did you first learn who Jesus is? Who told you? Did you just believe it or have you examined your belief more closely since? When did you finally own your belief for yourself?
6. What can someone say or do that would cause you to discount everything else the person says? What should or should not make someone credible in your eyes?
7. What is it about you that makes your opinions or ideas credible to others?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers about focusing on the foundational ideas of faith and life.