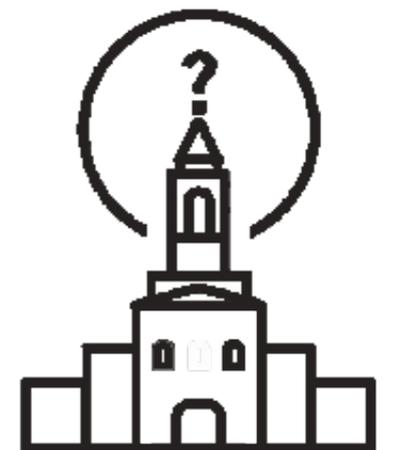




WHY BOTHER WITH CHURCH?

FACILITATOR: You can go over GROUND RULES
if you think its needed.

REMINDE to the GROUP that when
they see this symbol **[Q]** it means
we are supposed to ASK a question
and **take time** to answer it together.



Why Bother... *What is the Church?*

FACILITATOR ASK...

[Q] Has anyone ever questioned why you are so involved in a local church?

[Q] Has anyone every gone as far as ridiculing you for your participation in church events or attendance?

On the next slide read Matthew 16:13-20

Hand the device to any person with **eye-glasses**



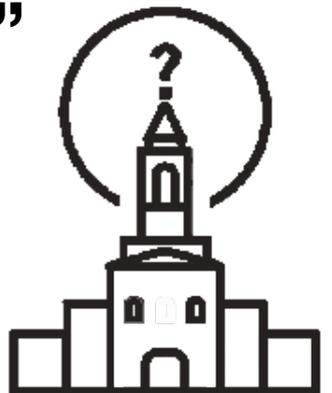
READ MATTHEW 16:13-10 to the Group...

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, **“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”** **14** And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” **15** He said to them, **“But who do you say that I am?”** **16** Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” **17** And Jesus answered him, **“Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.** **18** *And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.* **19** *I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”* **20** Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

[Q] Jesus is asking us the same... **“Who do you say that I am?”**

How we respond to that question determines how we answer

“Why bother with the Church?”

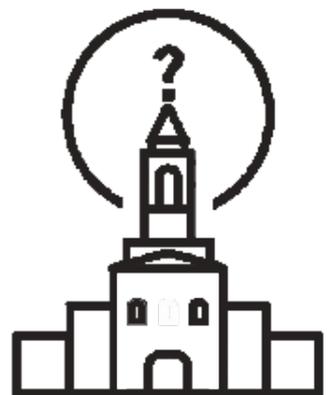


Hand the device to the person on your **LEFT**...

When Jesus affirmed Peter's answer He said that this knowledge wasn't from an earthly perspective but from God in heaven.
(Simon Bar-Jonah --> Peter)

- [Q]** Why do you think its significant that Jesus calls Peter two different names? (Brainstorm potential reasons)
- [Q]** If Peter means "ROCK", what is God's plan for building His church and for us today?
- [Q]** Have you ever really considered that your story is the the stuff (~~bricks & mortar~~) this church is made of?

Hand the device back to the **Facilitator**



Read the Group...

vs. 18... “and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

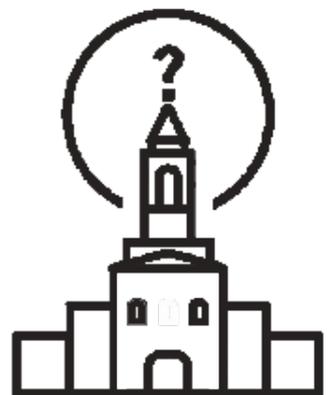
[Q] What confidence can we have based of this proclamation?

[Q] (**Answer honestly**) Does this change your perspective from the defensive to the offensive in your faith?

In Matthew 28:18 Jesus says... “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me...”

[Q] If Jesus has ALL AUTHORITY and builds His church with the testimony of our lives, how should we live?

Keep going FACILITATOR...



Read the Group...

As the **church** we are supposed to be extending this invitation to others and not just keep it to ourselves.

Like Peter we build the church on the

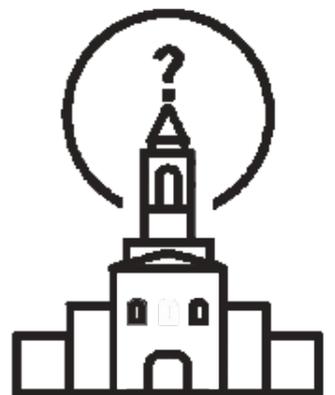
“Faith of our confession”

Every time another person confesses Jesus as Lord the church is expanded.

[Q] Is your story more about look at what God has done **FOR** me, or look at what God is doing **IN** me?

[Q] Ask people to share how God has been at work in their stories?

Keep going FACILITATOR...



End by DOING the following simple ACTIONS...

Turn to the person on your **right** and **left** and ask...
“Who do you say Jesus is?”

Affirm someone in the group by ways you are seeing
Christ at work IN their life.

Proclaim one thing you are going to do this week
because of the POWER that is inside of you!

Who is one person or a group of people
you will storm the gates of Hell for?

Close in prayer as a group.

