



PERSONAL REFLECTION

READ Psalm 127:1-2. As followers of Jesus, it's easy to think that building the church depends on our efforts, that its growth, expansion, and reach are ultimately up to us. Have you seen or felt that in your life at all? How do these words of Solomon (who actually got to build God's temple in Jerusalem instead of his father, David), help you reframe your understanding of what the Lord has called you to do??

PRAYER ITEMS:

WEEKLY BIBLE READING PLAN

From the READ SCRIPTURE app, Available for both Android and Apple devices.

In the **READ SCRIPTURE** app, be sure to set your start date for January 1, 2026 in the app settings, and follow along with us!

October 18: Acts 25-26 | Psalm 131

October 19: Acts 27-28 | Psalm 132

October 20: Romans 1-2 | Psalm 133

October 21: Romans 3-4 | Psalm 134

October 22: Romans 5-6 | Psalm 135

October 23: Romans 7-8 | Psalm 136

October 24: Romans 9-10 | Psalm 137

WALKING with JESUS

Matthew 16:13-24 | **Going Public**
Pastor Justin Carruthers | October 18, 2026

KEY QUESTIONS OF MATTHEW:

1. Who, truly is Jesus?
2. How will you respond to Him?

Matthew 16:16, 1 Peter 2:4,5

THE GOSPEL REALITY:

- Following Jesus will cost you _____
Following Jesus will _____

Matthew 16:24,25

THREE QUESTIONS JESUS ASKS EVERY PERSON BEFORE THEY FOLLOW HIM...

1. Is Jesus _____, or not?
2. Is Jesus the _____, or are you?
3. "Do you _____? If so, will you deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Me?"



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LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. If you could trade places with anyone, and live in their shoes for a single day, who would it be? Why?
2. Are you one that automatically respects authority, or immediately pushes against it?

QUICK REVIEW

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. This weekend, Pastor Justin noted the significance of the location (on the rock at Caesarea Philippi near a strip mall of pagan temples) for where Jesus made His declaration to Peter, "*I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church.*" How does the location shape your imagination for what God is communicating to Peter, the disciples, and us today?

READ SCRIPTURE

READ Matthew 16:13-24

1. How does this passage highlight God's presence in our world?
2. What does this passage say about our broken human condition?
3. How does this passage call me to make change in my life?

OCTOBER 18-24, 2026 | WEEK #4

DIGGING DEEPER

1. **READ Matthew 16:13**. Jesus asks His disciples, "*who do people say that I am?*" In your various communities, who do people say that Jesus is?
 - **READ Matthew 16:14-17**. The people have placed Jesus in the box of their own understanding; He must be a reincarnated prophet, or a new one. Why do you think Peter's response is significant?
 - **READ 1 Peter 2:9-12**. How might you show your community that Jesus isn't just a prophet, but the Living God? Who do you know, who does this well? What do they do?
2. **READ Matthew 16:18-19**. Jesus declares three times His own activity, "*I tell you...*", "*I will build...*", & "*I will give...*" What do these declarations reveal about Jesus?
 - **READ Colossians 1:15-18**. As Jesus demonstrates the depth of His authority, what does it mean for you that Jesus would have all "*supremacy*" or be "*preeminent*"? For your Life Group? For your Church?
3. **READ Matthew 16:20**. Jesus' words to the disciples, on the surface, appear to be counter intuitive. Why do you think Jesus instructed their silence?
 - **READ Matthew 16:21-22**. Jesus reveals that as the Messiah, He will suffer and will face death. As a stand-in for all believers, Peter struggles to accept all this. What is Peter missing? Do you struggle with why Jesus had to suffer for you? Why or why not?

TAKING IT HOME

READ Matthew 16:24. Earlier, we saw who Jesus is: *the Messiah*. Now Jesus shows us what it means to follow Him: *denying ourselves and surrendering our lives to Him*. What might it look like this week to stop living for yourself, and instead trust and follow Christ? What habits need to stop? What patterns need to change?