

Family Worship Guide – Week 16

MEMORIZE

Matthew 16:18 – 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.

READ

Read Matthew 16:13-18.

When Jesus asked his disciples who people said that he was, they provided him with the various answers people gave. Namely, people saw him as either a second coming of one of the great Old Testament prophets or a great prophet himself in the same vein as Elijah or Jeremiah. However, when Jesus asks them who they believe him to be, Peter steps forward as a spokesman and confesses Jesus as “the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Peter rightfully recognizes Jesus as the Messiah, the promised Savior. Jesus affirms Peter’s answer, pointing out that he could not come by this knowledge from human sources, but rather the Father had revealed it to him. Thus, he was blessed to have had the Father grant him this saving knowledge. Jesus goes on to make a play on words with Peter’s name, which means “rock”, and the firm foundation on which he would build his Church. Certainly Peter, himself, was used mightily by God in some vital ways to establish and grow the Church. However, more than a single person, the rock on which the Church is built is the bold confession we are all called to have and share with Peter. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

Questions:

Why did some people think Jesus was like one of the great Old Testament prophets?

What does it mean for Jesus to be the Christ?

What is the rock on which Jesus said he would build his Church?

Bottom Line: Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

SING

This week we are singing “His Name is Jesus”, written in 1779 by Edward Perronet and originally titled “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”. The arrangement we are familiar with includes a new chorus by Sovereign Grace Ministries.

Today, much like in Jesus’ time on earth, many people say that he is many different things. All too often these are incomplete or incorrect pictures of our Lord and Savior. So let the church arise and preach the truth to all that Jesus is the Christ, who “ransomed [us] from the fall”. He is “Lord of all”, the “Risen Lamb, for sinners slain”, who “saves [us] by his grace”. Let your heart rejoice and overflow with praises as you sing, and let these words spur you on in sharing the truth of the gospel so that one day people from all nations will “crown him Lord of all.”

Visit our website for a link to this song: http://www.brookhills.org/gathering/this_week.html.

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God’s word and worship him together.

Preschool

- Read Matthew 16:15-16 with your preschooler.
- Now, tell your preschooler you are going to play a game with them called, “Who Am I?” Start the game by making statements like: I ride in a great big red truck. I wear a hat. I help to put out fires. Who or what am I? Answer: A Fireman.
- Play a few rounds of the game using different people. After you have completed 3 or 4 rounds play it one last time using the following statements: I came from heaven to earth. I came to save people from sin. I was a man but also God. Who am I? Answer: Jesus.
- Explain to your preschooler that Jesus was a man but he was also God. Now, ask your preschooler how we know that

Jesus is the Son of God.

- Tell them that we know who Jesus is because the Bible tells us that Jesus is the Son of God! The Bible is God's word to us, and everything in the Bible is true.
- Just like you knew who the people were when we played the game, God wants us to know who Jesus is too. There is no person as great as Jesus.
- Close by following up with your preschooler and asking them this question: "Who is Jesus?" He is God. Jesus is the Son of the Living God.
- Pray and ask God to reveal himself to your children so that they will one day know him and believe that Jesus is the Son of the Living God.

Children

- Read Matthew 16: 13-18. This is a very short passage and indicates a turning point in the book of Matthew for the disciples. Do you know why this section is important? This is the first time the disciples, with Peter as their spokesman, confess Jesus to be the Christ, or the Promised Messiah of the entire Old Testament.
- God has been at work in Matthew revealing who Jesus is, but not everyone has understood.
- In vs. 13, Jesus asks the disciples a leading question, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" This was the most common name Jesus used for himself. How did the disciples respond? Name some people the crowds thought Jesus might be and why: John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, another great prophet because of his miracles and great teachings.
- In vs. 15, though, Jesus looks straight into the eyes of the 12 men that he has spent over 2 years with, teaching, preaching healing, discipling, and pouring his very life into, and he asks them directly, "But who do *you* say that I am?"
- This is truly the moment of truth for every disciple or student. Imagine that you have been taking a science class on birds. You've read books, watched videos, went to classes, and listened to your teacher closely. Then one day your class goes on a field trip. The teacher is pointing out different birds, and the class is guessing which bird each one is. Then the teacher draws attention to a less common bird. The class guesses and argues about the type of bird. Finally, the teacher turns to you, his star pupil, and asks, "What do you say it is?" That's a lot of pressure, right?
- Well, thankfully it actually wasn't that hard for Peter and the disciples. Remember that I said earlier that God had been at work earlier throughout the book of Matthew.
- Look up Matt. 8:27 and 14:33. What did the disciples say about Jesus in each verse? Do you see the progression? The disciples go from man, to Son of God, to the Christ (or Messiah). God revealed to them who Jesus was (Matt. 16: 17). Blessed are all who God reveals this to!
- Read vs. 18. This, the gospel, is the foundation of our salvation and the Church – the confession that Jesus is the Christ and the Son of the Living God!
- Pray and thank God that he has revealed this to you through the Word and the Spirit. Pray that he will continue to reveal himself to others as you share the gospel with those you know and meet.

Students

- Plan a family game night for this devotion time together. If you have a "Jenga" block game it will provide a great illustration for this passage of Scripture. If you do not have one you can purchase a generic version inexpensively at many dollar stores or Wal-Mart. You could accomplish the same thing with a large set of dominoes as well.
- Tell your family that you will challenge them to a competition to see who can complete the largest structure according to the rules you find here: <http://www.hasbro.com/common/instruct/jenga.pdf>. Take the first turn and see how high you can build your blocks and then let your students take their turn. The catch is that you get to remove the bottom, outer-two blocks before they begin. (You can tell them it is because they are younger and you are at a disadvantage.)
- The goal is to illustrate how a firm and solid foundation is the key to a good outcome. The same is true in our spiritual lives as well. Read the suggested passage above and discuss the questions given together.
- The reality is that Jesus is the Christ, making him the one and only foundation on which one can solidly rest their lives. Be sure to ask your students how a person comes to have Christ as the foundation of their lives. Discuss the realities of confession of sin, surrender to Christ, and submission of one's life to him that are present in a believer's life. This would be a great moment to have them share their testimony if they have experienced salvation in their lives. Other passages that may be helpful in this process are Romans 10:9-10, John 14:6, and I John 2:1-6.

