

Peter's Confession



PETER'S CONFESSION

Matthew 16:13-28

Jesus and His disciples traveled to the town of Caesarea Philippi. Jesus asked the disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

The disciples answered, "Some say He is John the Baptist. Some say He is Elijah. Some say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."

"Who do you say that I am?" Jesus asked the disciples.

"You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God!" Simon Peter exclaimed.

Peter was right. Jesus was the Messiah. Jesus told Peter something important. "Simon," Jesus said, "you are blessed because My Father told you this. You are Peter, and I will use you to help build My church."

Then Jesus told the disciples not to tell anyone that He was the Messiah. It wasn't the right time for people to hear that truth about Jesus. After that, Jesus started telling the disciples that He would go to Jerusalem. He would suffer, be killed, and be raised from the dead on the third day. Peter was shocked. He took Jesus aside and began to argue with Jesus. "This will never happen to You!" Peter said.

Jesus turned and told Peter, "You are not thinking about God's plan. You are thinking of what people want."

Jesus told the disciples, "If anyone wants to follow Me, he must forget his own ideas and plans, and follow Me."

Peter's Confession

Session #2 & March 12, 2023

Younger Children's Activity

Resources Needed: plastic craft string cut in 6-inch strips, key chain ring clip, wooden tags, colored beads, paper plates, ultra-fine tip sharpies.

Directions:

- **Prior to lesson, tie plastic string to key chain rings.**
- **Have kids write Messiah, Jesus, Christ, Lord, or Son of God on the wooden tag using a fine tip sharpie.**
- **Have kids string colored beads on the string leaving about 3 inches of string at the end.**
- **Attach the wooden tag to the end of the string and tie it off.**
- **Cut off excess string.**

Extra Activity: Peter the Rock activity pg 21 (dodge balls-2 per class, painters tape)

Older Children's Activity

Resources Needed: sticker gems, sequins, Item 42: "Cross" printable on cardstock, crayons, pens, thin ribbon, hole punch

Directions:

- **Give each child a cross.**
- **Write the Text Truth "Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God" in pen on the cross.**
- **Shade the cross lightly with crayon.**
- **Cut out cross.**
- **Punch a hole in the top of the cross and attach ribbon.**
- **Decorate the cross with gems and sequins.**

Extra Activity: Who Am I activity pg 21 (Item 12)

ACTIVITIES (20 MINUTES)



PETER, THE ROCK

Tools: 2 playground balls, painter's tape, Item 1: "Matthew 16:16" and Item 4: "Text Truth 2" (Poster Pack)

- Make a start and finish line by placing painter's tape on the floor. Display the Text Truth Strip and/or "Matthew 16:16" poster.
- Ask kids to form two groups. Instruct your kids that they will roll the ball (*rock*) to the finish line and back while saying the Text Truth.
- Tell your kids that they should continue play until each member has raced down and back with the "rock." The first group to finish wins the game.
- Replace the Text Truth with this month's Memory Verse and play again.
- Say: "Simon was one of Jesus' disciples. Jesus nicknamed him Peter. The name *Peter* means 'rock.' He was Jesus' good friend. Peter understood that **Jesus is the Messiah, God's Son!**"

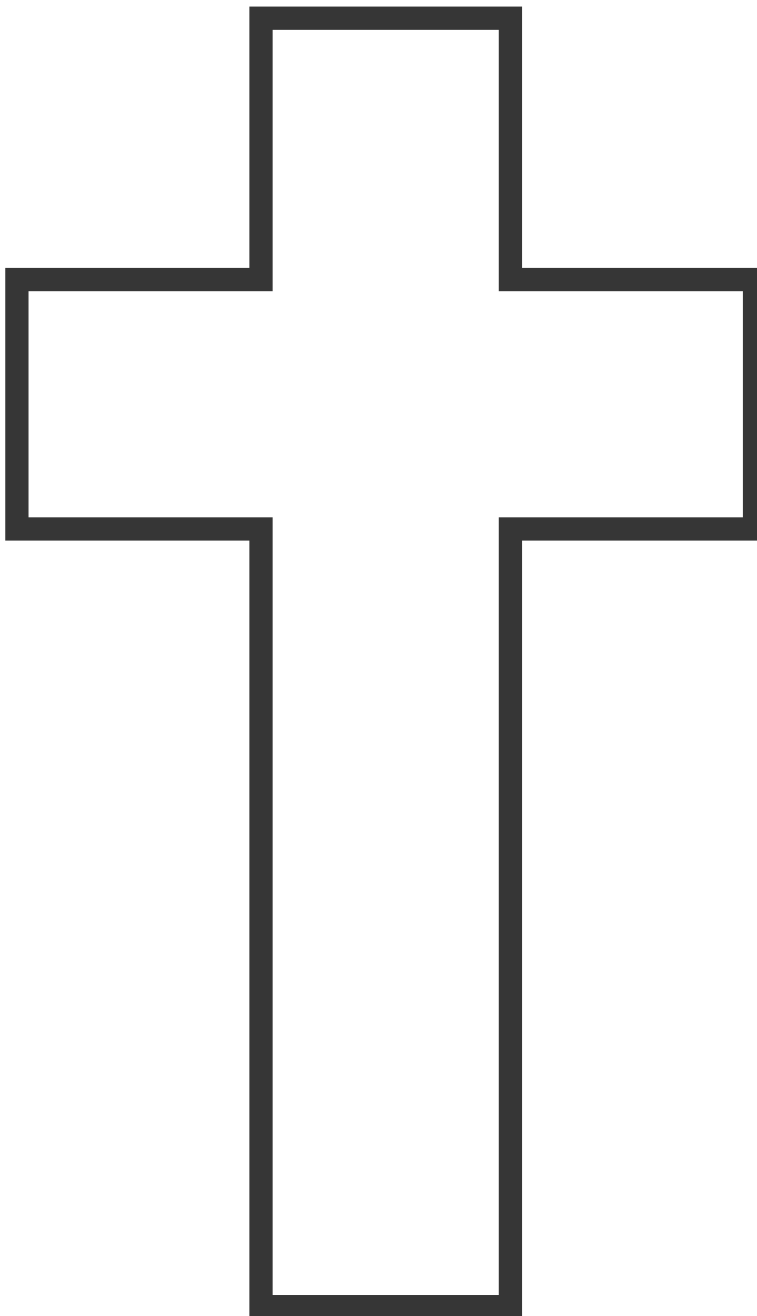


WHO AM I?

Tools: Item 12: "Who Am I?" (Poster Pack), dry erase board and marker, eraser

- Cut apart "Who Am I?" cards. Write each person's name that is on a game card on the board, mixing up the order. Shuffle the cards.
- Form two teams and ask them to stand in two lines.
- Say: "I will read a game card that describes someone from the Bible. The first person in each line will listen. When they know the answer, they will run and grab the eraser and erase that Bible person's name off of the board. If they erase the correct name, their team gets a point. If they erase the incorrect name, I will write it back on the board and the other team gets a chance to erase a name. If neither team gets it correct, the card will be read again later in the game."
- Play until all of the cards have been identified. Total the points and declare a winner.
- Say: "Out of all these people in the Bible, the One we learned about today from Peter's confession—Jesus—is most important."
- Recite today's Text Truth: **Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God.**

JESUS IS THE MESSIAH.



PETER'S CONFESSION

JESUS IS THE MESSIAH, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD.

March 12



STATUE OF PETER

Giuseppe De Fabris sculpted this statue of Peter in the mid-1800s. Today, the **5.55-METER-TALL STATUE** stands on a pedestal outside a basilica in Rome. In all, the statue plus the pedestal are about as tall as a 3-story house! **WHOA!**

What do you notice in the statue's hand?

In **MATTHEW 16**, Simon Peter declared that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Then, Jesus said that Simon Peter would be given the keys to the kingdom of heaven. This meant that **GOD WOULD USE PETER** to help build the church!

UNDERSTANDING JESUS

Peter understood that Jesus was the Messiah, but he did not understand that the Messiah would need to die on the cross to rescue us from our sin.

WRITE YOUR ANSWER TO THE QUESTIONS IN THE SPACE PROVIDED.

What is one thing you understand about Jesus?

What is one thing you do not understand about Jesus?

WHO DID PEOPLE THINK JESUS WAS?

The disciples told Jesus that some people thought He was John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets who had come back to life.



JOHN THE BAPTIST

A FORERUNNER FOR JESUS WHO PREACHED ABOUT BAPTISM, REPENTANCE, AND THE FORGIVENESS OF SIN



ELIJAH

A PROPHET TO THE NORTHERN KINGDOM WHO RAISED A WIDOW'S SON FROM THE DEAD AND WHO WAS TAKEN TO HEAVEN BY A CHARIOT IN A WHIRLWIND

BIBLE PASSAGE:
MATTHEW 16:13-28

MEMORY VERSE:
MATTHEW 16:16

WHO? WHAT? WHERE?

Write the answer to each question in the space provided. Look up **MATTHEW 16:13-28** if you need help.

Where was Jesus in today's Bible story? _____

_____ Who asked, "Who do you say I am?"

Who did Peter say Jesus was? _____

_____ What would Jesus use Peter to build?

Where did Jesus say He needed to go? _____

What did Jesus say would happen on the third day?

Who was thinking about what people wanted (human concerns) instead of God's plan?

A ROCK-SOLID CONFESSION

When God fulfilled His promise to send the Messiah, everything changed! God's people expanded to include both Jews and Gentiles, and God established a new covenant.

Simon's rock-solid confession that Jesus was the Messiah earned him the nickname "Peter," and it identified the rock-solid foundation that the church of Christ would be built upon.

FAST FACT: "Peter" comes from the Greek word for stone or rock!



COOLED MAGMA FROM BASALTIC VOLCANOES FORMS DIABASE, THE STRONGEST ROCK IN THE WORLD.

DIAMONDS ARE THE HARDEST NATURALLY-OCCURRING MINERAL COMPOUND.



STANDING 1,421 FEET TALL, PEÑA DE BERNAL NATURAL MONUMENT IS THE TALLEST FREE-STANDING ROCK IN THE WORLD.

JEREMIAH

A PROPHET WHO TAUGHT THAT SALVATION COULD COME ONLY THROUGH GOD'S WRATH FOR SIN BEING SATISFIED

ANOTHER PROPHET

GOD'S PROPHETS PREACHED ABOUT GOD'S JUDGMENT, THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN, REPENTANCE, AND FOLLOWING GOD.



These guesses revealed that people recognized the importance of Jesus' teachings and miracles. Today, many people still think of Jesus as a holy man or a great teacher.

But recognizing Jesus' power and righteousness is not the same as recognizing that Jesus is the Messiah. WE CAN PUT OUR FAITH IN JESUS AND FOLLOW HIM AS LORD AND SAVIOR!

