

WEEKLY GUIDE

JULY 25, 2021

1
GATHER!
SUNDAY AND
THURSDAY

2
TALK!
DISCUSS THE
LESSONS

3
DO!
PUT THE
LESSONS INTO
PRACTICE

4
PRAY!
MAKE YOUR
REQUESTS
KNOWN TO GOD

BIBLE READINGS:

Matthew 16:18; Matthew 1:21; John 1:41-42; 1 Peter 2:4-6

MATTHEW 16:13-18

13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" 14 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

MATTHEW 1:21

21 You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

JOHN 1:41-42

41 The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

1 PETER 2:4-6

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

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DISCUSSION:

Who do people say that Jesus is? What have you heard others say about Jesus? How does the world view Jesus? What about your friends, family members, or co-workers? Have you ever asked them what they think of Jesus? Who do they think He is?

Who do you say Jesus is? What do you believe about Him? What are a few of the strongly held beliefs you have regarding who Jesus is? Who do you affirm Jesus to be? How does your understanding of Jesus inform your identity and define who you are?

What does Jesus mean when He says "on this rock I will build My church?" What is this rock? How is this related to what Scriptures reveal about who Jesus is? Why is it important that what we believe about Jesus lines up with what the Word of God says about Him?

APPLICATION:

What impacted you the most from this lesson? What were your big takeaways? What will you apply to your life? How will you put what you learned into practice in your life this week?

SUMMARY:

Jesus asks a couple of very important questions in Matthew 16. The answer to the first is not as important as the answer to the second. The answer to the second will impact where you spend eternity. Here they are...

- Who do people say Jesus is? Matthew 16:13
- Who do you say Jesus is? Matthew 16:15

The foundation of the Church is Jesus himself. He is the chief cornerstone. Peter became the first of many living stones that Jesus would use to build his church. As you affirm what the Scriptures reveal about who Christ is, as you recognize Jesus as the anointed Messiah, and as you trust in him to save you from your sins, you become a living stone that Jesus uses to build His church. His church is not made with brick and mortar, nor with human hands, but by God Himself and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

