

Who Do You Say I Am?

TEACHING NOTES

Jesus performs many miracles



Complaining disciples (John 6:60-65)



"Will you follow?" (John 6:66-67)



Peter's response (John 6:68-69)



A response of knowledge and faith

KEY VERSES

John 6:68

Matthew 16:13-20

KEY THEMES

Jesus is the Son of God

Jesus is Life

Believing God, our response of faith

Jesus has the words of eternal life

Jesus came for the needy and sick, not the righteous



“Who do you say I am?” (Mathew 16:13-15)



“You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (Mathew 16:16)



The Church (Mathew 16:17-20)

Lesson Objective:

That we would see Jesus for whom He is so that we could respond in faith and have the confidence to follow Him.

PERSONAL STUDY

This is your opportunity for ongoing study of the material from our recent session. God is the one who is actively revealing His character and His plan as we interact with His Word.

Study 1

Prepare your heart and mind

Take a moment to prepare your heart and mind. Call upon the Holy Spirit to reveal His truths and to open your mind to where God is leading.

As you read the passages below about Jesus' ministry, answer the following questions:

What is the response from the Pharisees as they witness Jesus' miracles and hear the truth He speaks?

What are the conclusions they draw about Jesus?



Read Mark 3:1-6 (Jesus heals a man's hand on the Sabbath)



Read Matthew 9:22-35 (Jesus heals the blind and mute)



Believing God, the response of faith

Now, compare Peter's response to Jesus

Read Matthew 16:13-20

What is the question Jesus asks?

What is the first response from the disciples?

Before Jesus sends them out into ministry He wants to hear them declare the truth. He asks them, "Who do YOU say that I am?"

What is Peter's response?

Here is a confession of the Christian faith made to Christ Himself. Imagine standing face-to-face with the divine, long-awaited Messiah and declaring to Him, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

How do you answer Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?"

Prayer time

Take a moment, with gratitude and love, declare in prayer to Jesus, our Redeemer, our Savior...

You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.

Key verse

"But who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:15-16)

Commit a day to this scripture. Give yourself some reminders throughout the day that will bring to mind this truth. Examples may be:

- Set 3-4 reminders on your phone or computer. As they pop up, stop a moment and reflect on this Truth.
- Turn your car radio off as you drive, repeat over and over the scriptures thanking and praising God.
- Put your watch on upside-down. When you go to tell the time and notice the upside-down watch, praise God by stating the verses.

Study 2

Prepare your heart and mind

Whenever we spend time reading and studying God's Word, we should ask God to prepare our hearts and minds to receive the Truth that He has for us. Take a moment to do this now.



Jesus – the source of life



Read John 6:66-69

The disciples were given a choice – a life or death choice. Peter understood his need for Jesus. Do you? Have you ever denied yourself the very things you need to physically survive, like food and water? Of course not. Triggers, like hunger pains and thirst, alert us to our need for food and water. If we choose not to consume, it affects us physically. What about spiritually? Are you connected to the person who sustains your life? Do you receive signals that tell you your spiritual life is in need of attention?

What are some signals that alert you when your spiritual life is in poor health?

How do you respond to these signals?

When you become spiritually weak, it is a safe bet that you have been making poor choices that likely come from a disconnect with God.



Read John 10:10

Who is the thief and what is his purpose?

What does Jesus say His purpose is?



Read John 6:63 and John 15:5-8

What does Jesus say will give us spiritual health and life?

Jesus says it is the Spirit that gives life and that the words He speaks are spirit and life. The Spirit dwells within us when we receive Christ. Jesus' life-giving Word speaks to us through the Bible. It is our connection to Jesus, the vine, that provides all of what we need. Reading through the gospels you'll see that everywhere Jesus went He gave life.

If you are not connecting to Jesus for life, what or who are you connecting to and why?

Key verse

Continue to work on memorizing Matthew 16:15-16. See if you can write it out from memory.

Prayer Time

Today you learned the truth that Jesus is the source of life. Ask Him to show you how the world tries to influence you away from believing He is the source of life. Ask Him to help you be aware and respond to the signals of an unhealthy spiritual life.

PARENT GUIDE

Last week you were introduced to the idea of using a Bedtime Story as another tool to share with your children what you are learning from God's Word. Reading stories at bedtime is a common practice between parents and children. This week we have another Bedtime Story for you to share and a few questions to help spark some discussion.

Bedtime Story

During the teaching we talked about the story of Jesus walking on water to the disciples (John 6:16-21). At bedtime read this story to your children using an age appropriate Bible. Another option is to retell the story in your own words. Use these questions as a tool to talk about what you have read.

What do you think the disciples were thinking when the sea grew rough and things got dangerous?

What do you think it was like for the disciples to see Jesus walking towards them on the water? How would you have felt if you had been there with them?

What does this story tell us about Jesus and who He is?

