

Life Group Questions
October 8, 2017

Get-To-Know-Me Question:

- Talk about a time in your life when people had a misconception about you? What did they think about you, and how did it match up with who you really are?

Into-The-Bible Questions:

Read through **Matthew 16:13-16**.

- After Jesus asks the disciples who the crowds thought he was, the answers are the names of some of the greatest prophets who had ever lived. The people obviously thought very highly of Jesus. Did their actions line up with what they thought about Jesus? Explain.

- Why was it so significant for Jesus to personalize the question by asking the disciples, “But who do *you* say I am”? What does this tell us about Jesus?

- Peter, the go-to mouthpiece of the disciples, quickly answers by claiming that Jesus is the Son of God—a God-given insight that almost no one else on earth had. How did this knowledge of Jesus affect Peter from that moment on? (Use Matthew 16:22-23, 17:4, 18:1, John 13:6-9, Matthew 26:33, John 18:10-11, Matthew 26:69-70, John 21:7-17, and Acts 4:19-20 as references.)

Let's Go Deeper:

1. Read through **Matthew 16:15-20**. According to Jesus, how did Peter know Jesus' true identity? Is this how it still happens today? Explain your answer.
2. After Peter's declaration, Jesus changes his name from Simon to Peter. What is the significance of this act?
3. The "rock" that Jesus says he will build his church on in verse 18 is the truth that Jesus is the Messiah. If this truth is the foundation of the Christian church, why are there so many different denominations? Is one denomination better than the others? Explain.
4. Toward the end of this passage, Jesus declares that the church will have authority and power that not even "all the powers of hell" can conquer. Do you believe that our church has this kind of power and authority? Why or why not?
5. In verse 20, Jesus warns the disciples not to tell his true identity. Does this seem counterproductive to his mission? Why doesn't he want them to share the truth about who he is?