

OPENING QUESTIONS

What would you consider to be the most courageous thing you have ever done? Would you do it again? Why or why not?

READ TOGETHER

Our study today is about the place that multiplication plays in our lives as followers of Christ. As you are about to see, Jesus has committed Himself to building His church – the multiplying of His people throughout the world. So begin by finding **Matthew 16** and reading **verses 13-20**.

BIG IDEA

You are invited to change the world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) In this story, what answers are various people giving to the question: *Who is Jesus?*
- 2) Why do you suppose that all of the people gave responses from the prophet category? (John the Baptist was known for proclaiming the Kingdom, Elijah for his miraculous works and Jeremiah for his compassion and concern toward God's people) Why might the people have said Jesus was one of those men?
- 3) Do you see parallels between this story and the various views people hold to today when it comes to the question of who Jesus is? What are they?
- 4) How does Peter's answer differ from the others? In many ways, Paul fleshes out Peter's answer in Colossians 1:15-21. Take time to read it as a group.
- 5) What connection do you see between Peter's answer and how Jesus follows it up?
- 6) Jesus used two different words when telling Peter He would build His church. Jesus said, "You are Peter" or Petros in the language of the day which means "small stone." He then said: "And on this rock," or Petra in the language of the day which means "massive rock." What massive rock is Jesus referring to when He says He is going to build His church upon it? (See Matthew 16:16, Romans 10:9-10.)
- 7) A key is a sign of authority. Jesus said He would give Peter the keys of the kingdom of heaven. How did Peter use these keys? (See Acts 2:38, 15:14,19-20.) In what ways are we called and invited to use these keys?
- 8) If Jesus were ask you to honestly answer His question today - *Who do you say I am?* - How would you answer? How did you arrive at that answer?
- 9) What are you doing with your keys to the kingdom? What should we be doing?
- 10) The most important thing Jesus says in this passage is that He will build His Church. In other words, He is going to cause His Church to grow and multiply. How do you see God doing that at RockPointe? In Calgary? Around the globe?

CHALLENGE

You are part of what God is doing in His world to build His Church. Have each group member share who they either see God doing that in and through them today or how they would like to see God do that in and through them today. Then, have each group member share a specific means by which they are going to join God by using their kingdom keys this week.



PRAYER

Take time to pray as a group about these things. Begin by sharing of what holds you back from engaging in these practices as a follower of Christ. And then pray for one another that God would fill you with His Spirit to empower you for this.

NEXT STEPS

This passage is a wonderful one to teach us the value of understanding context when we read and study the Bible. This story took place in Caesarea Philippi and the context of this location is important. For more information, I'd invite you to take a look at <http://www.fishingtheabyss.com/archives/44> which is a valuable read to help you understand this story better.