

Matthew: Who Do You Say

Discussion Guide for April 19 and 20, 2026

Summary

In Matthew 16, Jesus takes His disciples to Caesarea Philippi — a pagan city full of shrines to false gods — and asks them an important question: "Who do you say that I am?" Peter's answer is bold and Spirit-given: Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. But just a few verses later, that same Peter tries to talk Jesus out of the cross. This passage presents to us the importance of really knowing who Jesus is. And when we truly know who Jesus is, we better know who we are

Ice Breaker

Has there ever been a moment where you realized someone was very different from who you thought they were — for better or worse? What changed once you knew who they really were?

Key Verses

1. Matthew 16:13-23
2. Daniel 7:13-14
3. John 3:16-18
4. 1 Peter 2:4-6

Discussion Questions

1. People in Jesus' day saw him as a great prophet — impressive, but not the full picture. Where do you still see that today, and why is "good teacher" such a comfortable place to land?
2. Peter's confession wasn't his own insight — Jesus said the Father revealed it to him. What does it mean for your faith that belief is something God gives, not just something you decide?
3. In the midst of the pagan city of Caesarea Philippi, Peter boldly declares who he believes Jesus is. Are we willing to boldly declare our belief in who Jesus is publicly (our workplace, at school, at Starbucks, etc)? If not, what keeps us from doing so?
4. Peter resisted the cross out of fear, misunderstanding, and emotional attachment. Which of those three shows up most in how you follow Jesus?
5. Where are you still trying to answer identity questions outside of Jesus?

Life Application

This week, sit with Jesus' question personally: who do you say He is? Not the answer you'd give in church, but the one that shows up in how you spend your time, what you worry about, and what you actually trust. If there's a gap between what you believe and how you're living, don't clean it up first — just bring it to God honestly.

Key Takeaways

- 1.** Jesus is the Messiah and God himself.
- 2.** The church is built on who Jesus is, not on any one person. That's what makes it unshakeable.
- 3.** You won't find yourself by looking inward. You find yourself by knowing Him.
- 4.** Everyone who follows Jesus has been given a mandate to tell others who he is.
- 5.** Fear, misunderstanding, and emotion can make us obstacles to God's work.