



**Questions of Jesus**  
**7-Sep:** Who do you say I am?

**Series Summary:** We often focus on getting answers to the questions we have for God, but this series flips that familiar script. Over the next four weeks, we will focus on the questions Christ asks of us, and on how the answers to those questions affect our lives as followers of Christ.

**Big Idea/Question:** Who you say Jesus is is the most important question of your life, and no one can answer it for you.

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## GET THEM TALKING

What is a question you have always wanted to ask God?

**Leaders:** You do not have to answer all of these questions as that is not the focus of the night or the series. However, feel free to respond if you feel confident in the answer or write them down and I can answer them later.

Now, let's flip this around. What do you think God would ask you today?

**Series Set up** - Jesus was asked numerous questions and many he answered, although typically with a question. Over the next couple of weeks, we are going to be talking about the questions that Jesus asked of us.

## GROUP DISCUSSION

(The Question)

**Matthew 16:13-16** 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.”

Who did people say Jesus (the Son of Man) was at the time?

Who do people say Jesus is today?

Vs 14 - Why did Jesus change the question from “who do people say I am” to “who do you say I am?”

**Leader Note/Answer:** Jesus quickly changed the focus of the conversation from what other people had to say about Him to who the disciples believed Jesus was. No one else can answer that question for us. You parents may believe that Jesus is the Messiah. Your friends may believe that Jesus is the savior. But the truly important question in your life is who do you say Jesus is? Do you believe that he died for your sins and is offering you an eternal relationship with Him?

What did Peter mean when he said “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” How is that radically different from what everyone else was claiming to be true about Jesus?

**Leader Note/Answer:** John the Baptist, Jeremiah, Elijah or any of the other prophets all had one central job, to point toward Jesus (especially John the Baptist). Jesus was clearly claiming here that he was (is) greater than all of these men because he is the one (the Messiah) all of the men of God were paving the way for.

**Matthew 16:17-20** 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. **19** I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” **20** Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

**Apologetic Note:** When Jesus affirmed Peter’s answer he was affirming Peter’s claim that Jesus was the Son of God and therefore God. This matters because many today

make the false claim that Jesus never claimed to be God. This is incorrect as this passage is one of many passages where Jesus makes a direct or indirect claim to deity (being God).

## VIDEO TEACHING

**What Jesus can not be...** In Jesus' day there were many theories about who he was. Today there are also many theories about Jesus. In both cases, they are way off...

**Just a wise teacher:** We can not simply say that Jesus was a nice wise teacher and leave it at that. Why? Because as we saw earlier he claimed to be God.

**One of many choices for God:** Jesus directly stated that he was the only way to God (John 14:6).

**Simply a get-out-of-hell-free card:** Yes Jesus died for our sins so that we may have eternal life. But Jesus also called us to follow him daily (Matt 16:24-26).

## GROUP DISCUSSION

(Who do your actions say Jesus is?)

If we truly believe that Jesus is the Messiah we will \_\_\_\_\_?

How does Jesus answer this very question in the passage below?

**Luke 6:46-49** "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? **47** As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. **48** They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. **49** But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."

**Leader Note:** Jesus so perfectly defines what the win is. It is not simply having the right answer. The win is a life that is transformed by the Gospel. The win is that every word, deed, thought, and decision be marked by our obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ. As leaders we must always remind ourselves of this. Your students can know the right answers. But that does not mean they are taking their own advice. This is

why small group leaders and small group communities are so important because it is in those environments that we can keep one another accountable.

How did the wise builder build differently? What is the rock that we are called to build our faith on?

**Answer:** The answer is Christ and only Him. It can not be Christ and something else. It can not be Christ and good works. It must be Christ and Christ alone.

The foolish builder built his house (life) on the sand? What is a “sandy” or false foundation for our lives and faith?

**Answer:** Literally anything else other than Jesus. The challenge is that there are an infinite amount of false foundations to build our lives on. Some of the most common today are acceptance, success, and approval.

**Leader Note:** It is important to highlight two key points to this parable

1. **Everyone builds!** There is not a sidelines sitter in this parable. There are two builders. Those two builders describe all of humanity. Each of your students is building a foundation. They are building a foundation that is Christ or something else that will fail.
2. **The storm is coming!** It is not if the storm comes, it is when. Crisis will come in our lives. When they do they will reveal the nature of our faith.