

Tips and Tricks:

The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through and others will be over in a few seconds.

1. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was just preached. Just ask the questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Don't forget to laugh and crack up. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our ministry. Remember: We have to build a relational bridge strong enough to hold the truth!

Agenda for Group Time

1. Ice Breaker - Lighthearted ice breaker question (10 minutes)
2. Discussion - Bible study, sharing and application. (25 Minutes)
3. Prayer - Pray together (5 minutes)
4. Planning - Remember to talk about what's coming up.

Icebreaker

Question: If we polled two good friends from your early teen years, what adjective would they use to describe you?

- Lively
- Pensive
- Loud
- Quiet
- Active
- Other: _____

Matthew 16:13-20

This week was a "state of the church" sermon. Was there anything in the sermon that surprised you? Was there anything that challenged you? Is there anything you would like to add to what was said?

In our text, people thought that Jesus was John the Baptist, Elijah, or Jeremiah. Why do they think this?

Jesus asks the disciples two questions. What are they and how are they different?

Jesus gets personal with his second question. Why do you think Jesus did this?

- He saw someone do that on TikTok.
- This is an important question.
- To see where the disciples were spiritually.
- It was a test.
- Other: _____

Why do we struggle to ask what others think about Jesus?

- Fear
- Its awkward
- We don't want to be that person
- It feels pushy
- Other: _____

Think of one person in your life right now that you'd like to ask this question:
Who do you say Jesus is?

What is so significant about Peter's confession?

[18] And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

What is the "rock" that Christ is building His church on? Why is this important?

Every other religion in the world proclaims a message of acceptance, inclusion, and hope based on human works and striving. But Christianity is radically different. Eternal acceptance into a relationship with the Creator and the expansion of His kingdom are both based on Jesus' works.

-David Stottard,

Why is it important to remember that Christ is building his church, rather than "the church" is building the church?

Question: What are the "keys to the kingdom of heaven"?

When did you come to realize that Jesus is your redeemer? If you have not come to this realization, what is keeping you from embracing Christ as your redeemer?

Work It Out!

One thing I'll do differently because of this sermon:
