

**Date: 3.9.25 | Title: Jesus Prepares the Disciples for His Future | Scripture: Matthew 16:13-28, 20:17-19; Mark 8:27-9:1, 10:32-34; Luke 9:18-27 and John 12:23-33**

## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

### Middle School Students:

Jesus is fully God and fully man, and He is altogether Holy  
Jesus lived for the glory of the Father and taught that we should do the same through lives of worship  
Jesus is the only way people can connect with God  
Because Jesus is God, He had the power to perform miracles

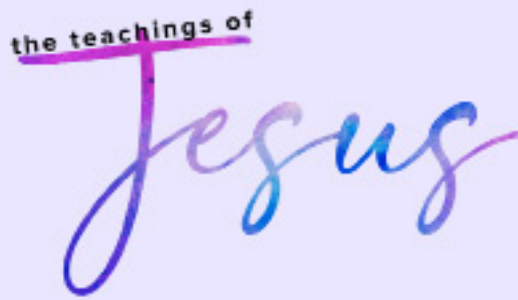
### High School Students:

From the beginning, God planned that Jesus would save people from their sins.  
Jesus is fully God and fully man, and despite being tempted while on earth, remained altogether free from sin.  
Because of Jesus, we who were once separated due to sin are now accepted into His presence due to Christ's righteousness  
Whereas many claim that Jesus was a good man or a great teacher, the truth is that Jesus is God



**MEMORY  
VERSE**

**"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45**



## INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

**Play a game of guess who? Provide the students with some facts about a famous actor, athlete, or musician without telling them who it is. See if they can say who the person is. Today we will learn that Jesus asked His disciples what people were saying about Him.**

**Who did the people think Jesus was?**

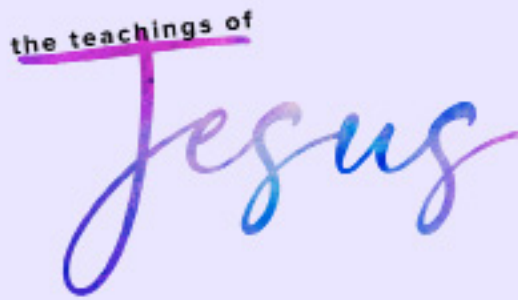
**Who did the disciples say Jesus was?**

**If someone asked you about Jesus, what are some things you could share with them?**

**What are some things you know about who Jesus is?**

**How can you describe Him?**

**What are some characteristics you know to be true of Jesus?**



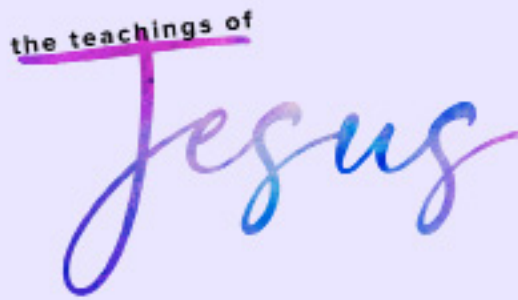
## BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

During the last year of His ministry, Jesus took His disciples to the northern part of Israel, to a place called Caesarea Philippi. On the way, He asked them what the crowds were saying about Him. The disciples answered that people thought He was a prophet, like John the Baptist or Elijah (Mark 8:27-28). Then Jesus asked His disciples, “But what about you? Who do you say I am?” Peter spoke for the group and said, “You are the Messiah” (Mark 8:29). Jesus told them not to tell anyone yet (Mark 8:30). He knew the right time would come for everyone to know He was the Messiah.

After Peter’s answer, Jesus explained that as the “Son of Man,” the Messiah, He would have to suffer, be rejected by the leaders, be killed, and then rise again after three days (Mark 8:31). This was a part of God’s plan for Him to die for our sins and bring us back to God. In John 12:23-33, Jesus said that His death would be like a seed that falls to the ground and dies, but then it grows and brings new life. This was very hard for the disciples to understand. While Peter knew Jesus was the Messiah, he couldn’t understand that Jesus had to die. He pulled Jesus aside and tried to tell Him not to talk about dying (Mark 8:32). Peter didn’t realize that Jesus needed to die to save the world.

Peter probably thought the Messiah would be a mighty king who would defeat the enemies and rule on earth. He didn’t expect the Messiah to suffer and die. Because of this, Jesus rebuked Peter, saying, “Get behind me, Satan! You do not have in mind the things of God, but only the things of people” (Mark 8:33). Peter’s way of thinking was not part of God’s plan.

Then Jesus taught the crowd what it would mean to follow Him (Mark 8:34-37). He explained that being His disciple would mean making sacrifices and being committed to Him. Everyone could follow Jesus, but not everyone would be willing to pay the cost.



## BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

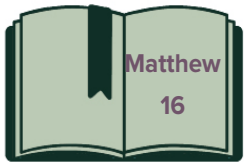
**In Matthew 20:17-19 and Mark 10:32-34, Jesus told His disciples again that He would be arrested, put on trial, and killed. But He also promised He would rise again after three days. Jesus wanted them to understand that His kingdom was not about power and victory over enemies, but about saving people through His death.**

**The disciples heard people say that Jesus might be John the Baptist, Elijah, or one of the prophets (Matthew 16:14). This was because many people thought the Messiah would be like a great prophet from the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 18:15-18; Malachi 4:5). Peter's confession in Matthew 16:16-18 was important because it was the first time one of Jesus' disciples publicly said that Jesus was the Messiah. Peter would later share the message about Jesus to many different people, including Jews, Samaritans, and Gentiles (Acts 2, 8, 10). But in Matthew 16:20, Jesus told His disciples not to tell anyone He was the Messiah yet, because people didn't understand what the Messiah was really like. Jesus didn't want people following Him just for miracles (Matthew 8:4; 9:30; 12:16; 17:9).**

**Finally, in Luke 9:20-21, after Peter's confession, Jesus' true identity as the "Christ" was recognized not just by His disciples, but also by angels, demons, and the Gospel writers. However, in Luke 9:21-22, the disciples still had much to learn about what it really meant for Jesus to be the Messiah. Jesus was not coming to be a political leader or a king to fight against the Roman army, but He came to die and rise again to bring salvation to everyone. Jesus kept His true identity quiet so that people would not misunderstand His mission and try to make Him a leader in a way that didn't fit God's plan.**

# the teachings of Jesus

## LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY



Locate the scripture in the Bible: Matthew 16:13-28, 20:17-19; Mark 8:27-9:1, 10:32-34; Luke 9:18-27 and John 12:23-33

Tell the story:

One day, Jesus and His disciples were in Caesarea Philippi, and He asked them, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” The disciples replied, “Some say you’re John the Baptist, others say you’re Elijah, and some say you’re Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” Then, Jesus asked them, “But who do you say I am?” Peter spoke up for the group and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

TELL  
THE  
STORY



Jesus told Peter that God had revealed this truth to him. He also said that Peter’s name meant “rock” and that on this “rock” He would build His church. Jesus was talking about a group of people who would believe in Him and follow Him, and they would become known as “the church.” Jesus told His disciples not to tell anyone yet that He was the Christ. (Matthew 16:13-20).

Read directly from Scripture, use The Jesus Storybook Bible, The Biggest Story Bible, or the summary provided in the lesson

After that, Jesus started telling His disciples that He would have to go to Jerusalem, suffer, be killed, and rise again on the third day. Peter didn’t like hearing this and pulled Jesus aside, telling Him that it shouldn’t happen. But Jesus rebuked Peter, saying, “Get behind me, Satan!” You are trying to stop me from doing what God wants me to do because you are not thinking about things God’s way.

In Matthew 20:17-19 and Mark 10:32-34, Jesus told His disciples again that He would be arrested, put on trial, and killed, but He also promised that after three days, He would rise again. Jesus wanted them to understand that His kingdom wasn’t about being powerful and defeating enemies, but about saving people through His death.

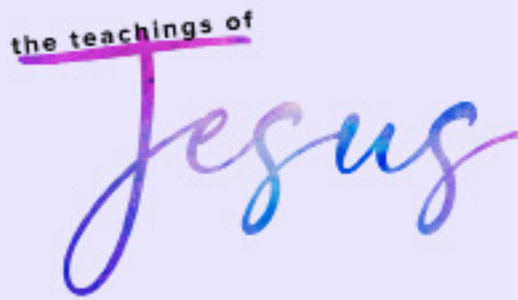
Re-Tell

The Bible  
Story

Re-tell the Bible Story: Have students re-tell the story as best they can.

Put the events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc...

Share the GOSPEL: The message Jesus shared with His disciples was hard for them to hear. Peter did not want to listen to Jesus speak about how poorly he would be treated or that he would soon be dead. The good news of the gospel is that these things are not the end of the story. God sent His perfect and only son, Jesus, to die on the cross so that His blood could cover our sins. Jesus would victoriously raise three days later defeating sin and death so that we can have an eternal relationship with God!



## ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

**ATTENTIVE** - God hears and responds to the needs of his children.

**COMPASSIONATE** - God cares for his children and acts on their behalf.

**CREATOR** - God made everything. He is uncreated.

**DELIVERER** - God rescues and saves his children.

**ETERNAL** - God is not limited by time. He exists outside of time.

**FAITHFUL** - God always keeps his promises.

**GENEROUS** - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

**GLORIOUS** - God displays His greatness and worth.

**GOOD** - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

**HOLY** - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

**IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING** - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

**INCOMPREHENSIBLE** - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

**INFINITE** - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

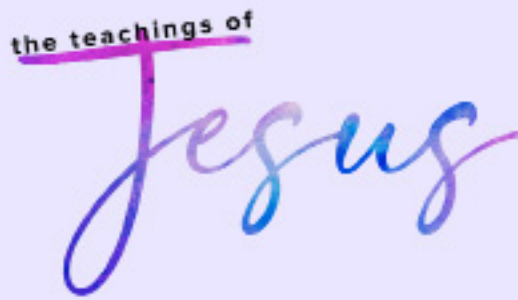
**JEALOUS** - God will not share his glory with another. all glory rightfully belongs to him.

**JUST** - god is fair in all his actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

**LOVING** - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward his children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

**MERCIFUL** - God does not give his children the punishment they deserve.

**OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY** - God holds all power. nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.



## ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

**OMNIPRESENT** - God is fully present everywhere.

**OMNISCIENT** - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

**PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING** - God is untiring and bears with His children.

**PROVIDER** - God meets the needs of his children.

**REFUGE** - God is a place of safety and protection for his children.

**RIGHTEOUS** - God is always good and right.

**SELF-EXISTENT** - God depends on nothing and no one to give him life or existence.

**SELF-SUFFICIENT** - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

**SOVEREIGN** - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure.

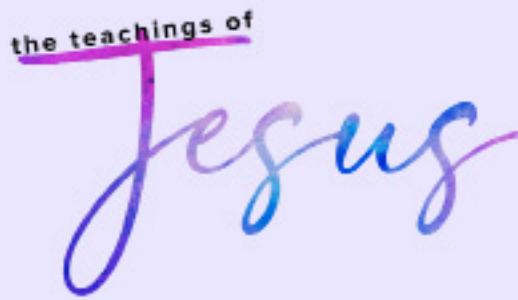
**TRANSCENDENT** - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

**TRUTHFUL** - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

**WISE** - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

**WORTHY** - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

**WRATHFUL** - God hates all unrighteousness.

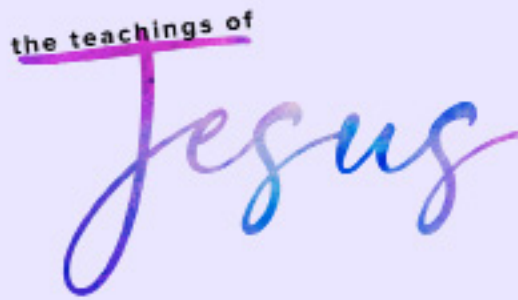


## QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

**“Storying” Questions:** As you ask these questions, have your students find the answers in the actual verses of scripture instead of recalling them from your re-telling of the story. We always want to encourage all of our students to go directly to God’s Word over a commentary on or summary of scripture. Use the Bible Study Bookmark Questions as well as these questions to help students understand the text:

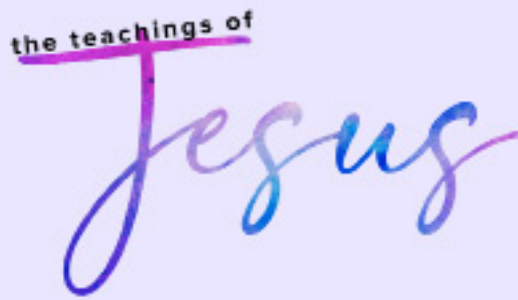
1. What did Jesus ask the disciples?
2. What were some of the ideas people had about Jesus? Who did people think He was?
3. Which disciple answered Jesus? What was his answer?
4. How did Jesus respond to Peter’s answer?
5. What did Jesus warn His disciples not to say? Why do you think He didn’t want them to talk about this?
6. What did Jesus say would happen when He went to Jerusalem? How would He be treated? What would be the result?





## QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

7. What did Peter say when he heard Jesus' prediction? Why do you think he disagreed with Jesus?
8. How did Jesus respond to Peter's words? Why? Whose plan was it for Jesus to go to Jerusalem to suffer and die?
9. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
10. What does the story teach me about myself?
11. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
12. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
13. How does this story help me live on mission?



## **PRAYER PROMPTS**

**Lord, thank you for your endless love! Thank you for sending your Son Jesus to be a perfect example for us. May we never forget who Jesus is and what He has done. Amen.**

## **IF TIME ALLOWS:**

**See if any of the students can name all 12 disciples without looking it up.**

## **MISSIONS EMPHASIS:**

**For the months of March and April we will collect money for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering in the giving funnel at the top of the lobby. Encourage your group to bring change to drop in as you head to the worship center after SS.**

## **REVIEW UNIT VERSE:**

**Spend time reviewing memory verse with students.**

**FETSOMCNTBSBT SATGHLAARFM - Mark 10:45**

the teachings of  
*Jesus*



## Application Questions

### LOOK UPWARD



- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?
- What aspect of His character is He inviting you to experience and enjoy?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your relationship with God?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in your relationship with God?

### LOOK INWARD



- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself, your needs, or your goals in life?
- In what aspects of your personal life is God inviting you to grow and mature?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story inwardly?
- How will those around you benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to allow these truths to help you grow spiritually?

### LOOK AROUND



- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is god inviting you to do differently in your relationships?

the teachings of  
*Jesus*



## Application Questions

### LOOK OUTWARD »»

- How does this story apply to your ministry and mission in life- to your role in God's kingdom, in society, and in the world?
- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your ministry?
- How will the world benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

### LOOK FORWARD »»»

- How does this story apply to your future, both in this age and in eternity?
- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What aspects of eternity is God inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit in the future by applying these truths now?
- How will God's kingdom benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?