

BIBLE STUDY GUIDE: “WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?”

(Matthew 16:16 – The Confession of Christ)

Source:

BIG IDEA

Everything changes when we truly recognize and confess Jesus as the Christ—this confession leads to surrender, transformation, and a life of discipleship.

THEME

Confession, Surrender, and Living Under the Lordship of Christ

CONTEXT (Historical + Biblical Setting)







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- Found in **Matthew 16:16**, during a key moment in Jesus' ministry.
 - Jesus asks His disciples:
 - “Who do you say that I am?”
 - Simon Peter responds:
 - “*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*”
 - Jesus affirms:
 - This truth is revealed by God
 - This moment becomes:
 - A turning point in understanding who Jesus truly is
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MAIN POINT 1: EVERY PERSON MUST ANSWER WHO JESUS IS

Key Scripture

- Matthew 16:15 – “*Who do you say that I am?*”
- John 1:12 – “*To all who did receive him...*”

Teaching Insight

- This question is:
 - Personal
 - Inescapable
- It's not enough to:

- Know what others say
- Each person must:
 - Decide for themselves

Application

- Who do you say Jesus is?
- Is your faith personal or secondhand?

Sticky Quote

“Your answer to who Jesus is defines your life.”

MAIN POINT 2: JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD

Key Scripture

- Matthew 16:16 – Peter’s confession
- John 14:6 – *“I am the way...”*

Teaching Insight

- “Christ” means:
 - Messiah
 - Anointed One
- Declaring Jesus as:
 - Son of God
- Means:
 - He is divine

- He is Savior
- He is Lord

Application

- Do you truly believe Jesus is who He says He is?
- How does that belief shape your life?

Sticky Quote

“Jesus is not just part of your life—He is Lord over it.”

MAIN POINT 3: TRUE REVELATION COMES FROM GOD

Key Scripture

- Matthew 16:17 – *“This was not revealed to you by flesh and blood...”*
- 1 Corinthians 2:12 – *“What we have received is from God...”*

Teaching Insight

- Understanding Jesus:
 - Is not just intellectual
- It is:
 - Spiritual revelation
- God opens our eyes to:

- Truth
- Identity of Christ

Application

- Are you seeking God for deeper understanding?
- How is God revealing Himself to you?

Sticky Quote

“You don’t discover Jesus on your own—God reveals Him to you.”

MAIN POINT 4: CONFESSION LEADS TO SURRENDER

Key Scripture

- Romans 10:9 – *“If you declare... Jesus is Lord...”*
- Luke 9:23 – *“Deny yourself...”*

Teaching Insight

- Confession is not:
 - Just words
- It leads to:
 - Action
 - Surrender
 - Obedience
- Saying Jesus is Lord means:

- He leads
- We follow

Application

- Have you truly surrendered your life to Jesus?
- What areas are still under your control?

Sticky Quote

“If Jesus is Lord, then you are not.”

MAIN POINT 5: FOLLOWING JESUS REQUIRES TRUST

Key Scripture

- Proverbs 3:5 – *“Trust in the Lord...”*
- John 10:27 – *“My sheep listen to my voice...”*

Teaching Insight

- Following Jesus means:
 - Trusting His way
 - Trusting His plan
- Even when:
 - We don’t understand
- Trust leads to:
 - Obedience
 - Peace

Application

- Where do you struggle to trust God?
- What step of faith is He asking you to take?

Sticky Quote

“Trust is the bridge between belief and obedience.”

MAIN POINT 6: OUR CONFESSION SHOULD BE VISIBLE IN OUR LIVES

Key Scripture

- James 2:17 – *“Faith by itself... is dead.”*
- Matthew 5:16 – *“Let your light shine...”*

Teaching Insight

- True confession shows up in:
 - Actions
 - Choices
 - Lifestyle
- It’s not just:
 - What we say
- It’s:
 - How we live

Application

- Does your life reflect your confession?
- What changes need to happen?

Sticky Quote

“What you believe should be seen in how you live.”

MAIN POINT 7: FAILURE DOESN'T CANCEL YOUR CONFESSION

Key Scripture

- Matthew 26:34 – Peter denies Jesus
- John 21:15–17 – Jesus restores Peter

Teaching Insight

- Peter:
 - Confessed Jesus
 - Later denied Him
- Yet:
 - He was restored
- This shows:
 - Failure is not final

Application

- Have you failed in your faith?
- Can you accept God's grace and restoration?

Sticky Quote

“Failure doesn’t disqualify you—Jesus restores you.”

MAIN POINT 8: CONFESSION LEADS TO TRANSFORMATION

Key Scripture

- 2 Corinthians 5:17 – *“New creation...”*
- Galatians 2:20 – *“Christ lives in me...”*

Teaching Insight

- When we confess Jesus:
 - Our identity changes
- We become:
 - New
 - Redeemed
 - Transformed
- Life is no longer:
 - About us
- It’s about:
 - Him

Application

- How has your life changed since following Jesus?
- What transformation is still needed?

Sticky Quote

“Confession is the beginning—transformation is the result.”

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is Jesus’ question so important?
 2. What does it mean that Jesus is the Christ?
 3. How does confession lead to surrender?
 4. Where do you struggle to trust Jesus fully?
 5. How can your faith be more visible?
 6. How does God restore us after failure?
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PRACTICAL CHALLENGE

- Speak your faith out loud: *“Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*
 - Identify one area where you need to surrender.
 - Live intentionally in a way that reflects your confession.
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FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT

Jesus still asks today:

“Who do you say that I am?”

Your answer will shape everything.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father,

Help us boldly confess that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Give us the courage to surrender fully and follow You faithfully.

Let our lives reflect the truth of who You are.

Transform us into who You've called us to be.

In Jesus' name, Amen.