



## SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“Matthew 16:13-20” on February 11/14

### CONNECT

How did last week’s passage we read/discussed from Matthew 16:1-12 affect your week?

### DISCOVER: MATTHEW 16:13-20

What did the passage say (in your own words) or did you take away from the sermon this week?

How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?

Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn’t understand, phrases that didn’t make sense, etc.)?

Matthew 16:13-20 In this passage Jesus takes His disciples to Caesarea Philippi as He continues their training. When He asks the disciples “Who do you say I am?,” Peter’s response brings the disciples a gigantic step closer to understanding what Jesus was preparing them for.

- Why do you think Jesus took his disciples at this time to such a thoroughly pagan area to have this discussion with them?
- If Jesus were to look straight in your face and ask “Who do you say I am?,” how would you respond? Would your response align with the way you live your life each day?
- What does it mean to you to say that Jesus is the Son of the Living God.....is He truly your Savior and Lord over everything in your life?
- Why would Peter’s response have brought joy to Jesus at this point in time?

In Matthew 16: 17, Jesus responds to Peter with “...you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church.” There are many different views of what Jesus might have meant.

- Discuss the varying viewpoints: Was Jesus referring to Peter himself as the rock, or was it Peter’s confession, or was Jesus referring to Himself as the Cornerstone of the church? Look ahead to the beginning chapters of Acts as you consider your responses.....what vision was Jesus giving the disciples for building the body of Christ?

Matthew 16:19: “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.”

- How would you explain this verse to someone else? What does ‘binding and loosing’ mean to you?
- Peter was the first to have the privilege of being the keys of the kingdom, but each one of us who confesses Jesus as our Lord and Savior is given the keys and the authority given to Peter. What privileges, opportunities, or responsibilities does that bring to your daily interactions with others?
- What we believe about someone determines how we will follow them. What we believe about Jesus matters!

What are you doing to unlock the doors to the kingdom of heaven for others? Do those doors remain open, or do you let them slam behind you?

### RESPOND

- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God’s Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.
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### PRAY

Pray for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.

### KEEP READING

Acts 2:1-47 where the church is launched.