

Stand Alone Message

The Turning Point

TALK IT OVER

Key Scripture

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He *said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. **Matthew 16:13-17**

Christology Answers:

1. Who is Jesus Christ?
2. Is Jesus God? Did Jesus ever claim to be God?
3. How can Jesus be both God and man at the same time?

Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Talk about a time in your life when you experienced a turning point. How did it feel?
- John the Baptist was known for his proclamation of the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 3:2). Elijah was known for his miraculous works and prophetic statements (1 Kings 17-18, 21, 2 Kings 1-2). The prophet Jeremiah was known for his compassion and concern toward God’s people (Jeremiah & Lamentations). Why might the people have said Jesus was one of those men (Matthew 16:14)?

Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Who does Simon Peter proclaim Jesus to be (v. 16)? How does He know this (v. 17)? (See also Matthew 14:33.)
- Is there a spiritual truth in this section that is especially significant for you? Write it down and explain why it is important for you.

Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Jesus asked His disciples, “But who do you say that I am?” (Matthew 16:15). Share with the group your answer to this question “Who do you personally say Jesus is?”
- How does the truth of Peter’s confession influence our carrying out of the Great Commission?
- What excuses do we use as to why we do not tell people that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God?

Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power.

God, after what You’ve done for us, we have no reason to live with indifference in our lives. Father, forgive us for our indifference. Jesus, we profess that you are the Christ the Son of the living God. Holy Spirit, please give us the strength to wake up every day in full reliance on You and to tell people about Jesus every day. Amen!

Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- What will you do every day this week not tell people that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God?