

Attendance:

1-6-2019

585

GIVING:

YTD Goal

725,527

YTD Surplus

138,121

WAYS TO GIVE BEYOND CASH

RMBC APP

OR

text reedleymbc to 77977



Reedley Church Mennonite Brethren

1362 L Street, Reedley CA 93654
Phone: (559) 638-8123 Prayer Line: (559) 743-7808
www.reedleymbc.org

Sunday Worship Services 8:15 & 10:50am
Sunday School 9:35-10:35am
Wednesday Night Programs 6:30pm



Malcolm Light, Senior Pastor

Matt Harder, Pastor of Care & Counseling

Randy Janzen, Worship Ministries

Mike Schellenberg, Pastor of Discipleship & Outreach

Joel Kersey, Student Ministries Pastor

Micah Thiesen, Middle School Director

Sabrina Elenes, Director of Children's Ministries

Jodi Laemmlen, Director of Women's Ministries

Kelly Fox, Administrative Assistant

Kathy Hughes, Finance Clerk

Sheila Penner, Hospitality Coordinator

Charlie Rivoire, Business Manager

malcolm@reedleymbc.org

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jodi@reedleymbc.org

kelly@reedleymbc.org

kathy@reedleymbc.org

sheila@reedleymbc.org

charlie@reedleymbc.org



ROOTED PARENT MEETING
January 13th @ 2:30pm

All Rooted Ministry Parents Are Invited


- Discussion of upcoming Rooted 2019 Events
- Guest Speaker Sharing on Healthy Parents and Student Relationships

FORGED MEN'S BREAKFAST
JANUARY 19 8:00AM

JOIN US!
 @ Reedley MB Fellowship Hall

Menu:
 Pancakes & Eggs!

FOOD | FELLOWSHIP | INSPIRATION




RMBC LIBRARY

Featuring a selection of Reformation Biographies
 Great resource center
 Something for all ages

SO MANY BOOKS SO LITTLE TIME

Sunday's 9:25-10:50am
 Wednesday's 6:15-7:45pm



the **Perk**

Sunday 9:15am-10:45am
 Wednesday 6:00pm-8:15pm
 Friday 8:00am-12:00pm



ROOTED BROOMBALL

Sunday, January 20th
 5:30-10:30pm

Who: All High School Students
 Cost: \$10 - Pay and register on the app or Webpage by January 16th.

Register now on the RMBC High School webpage or app.

Registration deadline and \$450 deposit due January 20th, 2019

YOUTHCON April 3-7th, 2019



ROOTED 2.42
 Devoted to the Fellowship

Every Monday, 2:42-4:45pm

Perk



ROOTED WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Meets Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00pm

Soup & Swap

January 28 6:30pm
 Fellowship Hall




West Coast Mennonite Men's Chorus

Kickoff Dinner and Rehearsal
 Saturday, February 2nd

4pm - Registration; 5pm - Dinner; 6pm - Rehearsal
 Registration: \$40.
 Contact Pastor Randy for more info.


AWANA CLUBS

AWANA Clubs
 Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00pm



DIVORCE Care

Meets Wednesdays at 6:30pm in EC-206.



Volunteers needed for Kingdom Kids

Starts Feb 7 2019!

Contact Sabrina for more info



WINTER CAMPS

Junior @ Hartland: Feb 1-3
 Junior High @ Hume: Feb 1-3
 High School @ Hume: Feb 22-24
 Sign up today on our app!

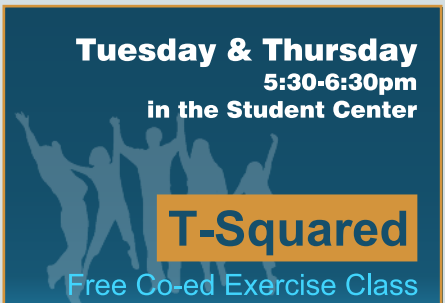


FELLOWSHIP MEALS

Menu for Jan 16: Pork Chili Verde, Rice, Ranchero Beans, Green Salad, & Brownie
 Kids: Chicken Strips, Rice, Refried Beans, & Brownie

Tuesday & Thursday 5:30-6:30pm in the Student Center

T-Squared
 Free Co-ed Exercise Class



For more details on these or additional RMBC Ministries: check the App, Website, or contact the church office at (559) 638-8123. Further details can also be found in today's journal.

This Sunday's bulletin can be accessed **online** **APP** 



RMBC ~ Journal

Welcome to Reedley MB! We're pleased to have you join us today for our worship services. It's our prayer that you will meet the living God in this place as we hear from the Word of God. We are here to **GLORIFY** God, **GROW** together as equipped disciples of Jesus Christ and **GO** proclaiming His gospel to all. If you have any questions, please ask, check out our app, or stop by The Welcome Center on the main lawn.

~ Malcolm Light, Pastor

Worship Services 8:15 & 10:50am Sunday School 9:35-10:30am

Worship Today-Jan 13th

We come to the high point of Matthew's gospel – Peter's confession of Jesus as Christ. It's no small thing to understand the supernatural truth of who Jesus is. As we study this passage, we'll also see the central role Peter is given in unlocking the gospel message to others. Our text is Matthew 16:13-20.

Baby Dedication Today

Callum Bobby Merritt, born September 8, 2018 to Jeff and Kara Merritt.

Bradley Randall Tos, born November 16, 2018 to Kevin and Megan Tos.

Upcoming Events

- Jan 13: Rooted Parent Meeting
- Jan 19: Forged Men's Breakfast
- Jan 20: Rooted High School Broomball
- Jan 28: Soup & Swap Women's Ministry
- Feb 7: Kingdom Kids Begins

Palm Village

Sunday Evening Video @ 6pm

Jan 13: Your Origins Matter - Part 2

Thursday Evening @ 6:30pm

Jan 17: Bob & Sharon Hilts

Sunday Morning

Jan 20: Chaplain Byron

I'm Visiting

If you are visiting with us today, we ask that you fill out the *Connection Card* located in the pew in front of you. On the reverse side of the card you'll find a list of various ministries and programs we offer at RMBC. Please mark all that interest you and we will contact you with more information. If you have a prayer request, please let us know as our RMBC staff prays for each request throughout the week. *Connection Cards* can be placed in the offering plate or taken to the Welcome Center where you may receive a free gift.



Prayer Opportunities

Sundays 7:45am and 10:30am in Pastor Malcolm's office. Wednesday mornings at 6:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

Prayer Line - Would you like to receive our daily Prayer Line? You can via email or through our App. Please contact the church office at 638-8123 or send an email to kelly@reedlymbc.org

Sermon Materials - Pastor Malcolm sends out sermon materials ahead of Sunday's sermon each week. Find them online, email, or call the church office at 638-8123.

Next Sunday

Jesus has established who He is as the promised Messiah, the Christ. Now Jesus lays out the true reality of what it means to be His disciple. Dietrich Bonhoeffer pointedly described Jesus' call to follow Him saying, "When Christ calls a man He bids Him come and die." Jesus' call to be His disciple requires all of our life to be surrendered to His will. Our text will be Matthew 16:21-28.

Mission Center

Missionary of the Week: **Selma Church Plant**. Pray for the continued ministry at Selma, for the leadership of Urbano and Alfredo, and that the light of the gospel would penetrate into the darkness of their neighborhood. Pray for courage, boldness, protection, and response to the gospel.

Spanish Bilingual Ministry - Prayerfully consider those you know whose "heart language" is Spanish and invite them to the RMBC Study/Prayer groups.

~Spanish Language Sunday School @ 9:35 in EC 212 led by Henrique Ott

~Wed. Night Spanish Language Bible Study @ 6:45 pm in EC 209 led by Pastor Alfredo Cardona and Elsa Barragan

Stewardship

Attendance: 1/6/2019 - 658

YTD Goal: \$725,527

YTD Surplus: \$138,121

To eGive use RMBC App or text [reedlymbc](https://reedlymbc.org) to 77977

RMBC Classified Ads

Need Help? Do you need help with a home project or have a service need? We have 7-12th grade students available to serve. We also have a need for service scholarship and donations for our students heading to Winter Camp and upcoming missions trips. If you would like to receive help or wish to donate to our youth scholarship fund please contact Pastor Joel.

Kingdom Kids is looking for 30 people to serve our Washington School children and help them discover the God of the universe. Contact Sabrina at sabrina@reedlymbc.org

Job Opportunities

Administrative Assistant - The Pacific District Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches (PDC) seeks to fill the position of Administrative Assistant. This part-time (20 hr/week) position is located at the PDC office at Fresno Pacific University. A job description is available at PDCMBC.org If interested, please forward a resume with cover letter to District Minister Gary Wall at 1717 S. Chestnut Ave. Fresno, CA 93702 or gary.wall@fresno.edu

Custodian - this is a full time position with benefits. See job description on the RMBC website (reedlymbc.org) and App.

AIAnon & AA Meetings Sunday Evenings
Book Study at 6:30, Meetings at 7:30pm in SC202 & 209. Call Florene Mendel Thiesen at 638-5345.

Wednesday Night Meals are served in the Fellowship Hall 5:30-6:10pm. Cost is \$4.50 for adults, children 6-10 \$2.50, up to age 5 eat free. Maximum \$18 per household. Pay at the door by cash/check, or in the office by credit card M-F 8:30am-5pm. Menu for Jan 16th: Pork Chili Verde, Rice, Ranchero Beans, Green Salad, & Brownie.
Kids Option: Chicken Strips, Rice, Refried Beans, & Brownie.



Rooted Student Ministry

Wednesday Nights - All 7-12th grade students are invited to join us each Wednesday night from 6:30-8pm for a youth gathering centered on growing in relationships with God and one another.

2:42 - All 6-12th grade students are invited to the Student Center every Monday (except holidays) from 2:42-4:45pm. Invite a friend and enjoy the Student Center and the Perk Cafe.

High School Broomball Event - High School Students are invited to join Reedley, Dinuba, Kingsburg and North-Fresno MB High School Students for an evening of pizza and broomball at Gateway Ice Center on Sunday, January 20th from 5:30-10:30pm. Sign up on the App or High School Webpage. Deadline to register is January 16th. Cost is \$10.

Winter Camps Are Coming - Registration for 4-12th grade is now available! Junior and Jr High Campers will go to camp February 1-3 and High School Campers February 22-24th. Jump online to find information on how to start the registration process!

MB Youth Conference - April 3-7th, 2019
The deadline to register and sign up is one week away on January 20th. Please contact Pastor Joel if you have questions about registration.

Growth Groups - All high school students are invited to sign up for our weekly Growth Groups starting up at the end of January. These groups are intended for students who want take the next step in their pursuit of Jesus and engage in deeper relationships within our youth community. Five groups will be running throughout the semester. Check our App or Webpage to learn more about the groups and sign up to attend.



RMBC Library Open House - You are invited to stop by the RMBC Library on Wednesday, January 23rd, 6:30-8:15pm and Sunday morning, January 27th (during Sunday School). Our library has something for everyone, *come check it out.*

Men's Ministry

Sunday Cross Trainers Basketball League at Immanuel 3-7pm.

Forged begins Tuesday January 22nd 6-7am in SC100.

Wednesday Men's Bible Study in EC107 from 7-8pm.

Wednesday Cross Trainers open gym at Immanuel 7-9pm

Thursday Men's Bible Study 12-1:30pm in the Brides Room. Bring your own lunch.

Forged Men's Breakfast is Saturday, January 19th at 8:00am. Join us for a morning of great food, fellowship, and an inspiring word from Rev. Angulus D. Wilson, PhD, Fresno Pacific University Campus Pastor. Come early for coffee at 7:30am. We will also be announcing our upcoming weekly study. Questions? Contact Pastor Mike at 638-8123 or mike@reedlymbc.org

West Coast Mennonite Men's Chorus Kick-Off will be Saturday, February 2nd at RMBC. Registration begins at 4pm, dinner at 5pm, and rehearsal at 6pm. Weekly Monday rehearsals at 7pm will begin February 4th in the Choir Room. Invite someone to join you in this fun ministry. Contact Pastor Randy at 638-8123 or randy@reedlymbc.org

Women's Ministry

MOMS Fellowship meets 9-11am in SC100 the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month.

MOMS Bible Study meets 9-11am in SC100 the 1st, 3rd, & 5th Tuesday of the month.

WOW Bible Study meets weekly 9-11am in SC200 with a new study of Psalm 23 by Jennifer Rothschild.

Wed Night Women's Bible Study meets weekly 6:30-7:45pm in EC205. They will begin the study *Finding I am* by author Lysa TerKeurst.

Scrapbook Retreat - Come spend a weekend at Hartland scrapbooking or crafting. Hartland is hosting their first scrapbook retreat at Hartland on March 22-24th with Hostess: Liz Friesen and Emcee: Toni Ensz. Register Now at info@hartlandcamp.com or call 559-337-2349.

Divorce Care meets Wednesday evenings in EC206 from 6:30-8pm. Contact Pastor Matt at 638-8123 for more information or matt@reedlymbc.org



Did you know our *Drink of the Month* can be ordered year round? If it's not on the menu, just ask for it at Perk.

Jesus Christ Church Builder Matthew 16:13-20

Last Sunday, we looked at another interaction Jesus had with the religious leaders of Israel and with His own disciples. The Pharisees and Sadducees came demanding a sign from Jesus to prove Himself to them. Jesus wouldn't bite, and decided to again leave His increasingly hostile Jewish homeland and travel north to the more receptive gentile territory. (PUT UP MAP) In our text today, Jesus and the 12 disciples have traveled about 25 miles north of the region of Galilee to a city called Caesarea Philippi. This was a Roman city named after Cesar Augustus and Philip a king over Israel that succeeded Herod. We're not told why Jesus wanted to go this far north with His disciples, but it might have been so that Jesus could have some time alone with them and get out of the unfriendly environment of Israel.

As Jesus and the disciples went north, asks the disciples a question, verse 13, "*Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.'*" As Jesus queries the disciples on the people's perceptions of Him we see two overwhelming. One, **the general public sees Jesus as a prophet of some significance.** Some see Jesus as John the Baptist as Herod had in Matthew 14. Some see Jesus as Elijah, who was believed to one day return as the front runner to the coming of the Messiah. Interestingly, in Matthew 11:14, Jesus has already told the disciples that John the Baptist is the Elijah who was to come – that John the Baptist did fulfill that role of preparing the way for the Messiah to come. The people are also suggesting that Jesus might be Jeremiah, which is also an interesting connection, as Jeremiah was the prophet of God's judgment especially as it came to God's judgment against the political and religious leadership of Israel. And then there were any number of other prophets or as a prophet in His own right that the people connected Jesus to. In the end, to answer Jesus' question, the general public sees Jesus as a prophet of some significance.

The other thing we see in the people's perception of Jesus, and we are about two years into Jesus' earthly ministry, is that the **people hold a predominantly positive picture of Jesus.** While the politicians and religious leaders aren't particularly happy with Jesus, overall, the people are. And it makes sense. He's healing them, and providing them with food, and inviting them to come and be apart of His kingdom. It's not going to last, but for now, Jesus is relatively popular among the people.

But now He turns the question more specifically. Verse 15, "*He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?'*" Guys, thanks for the insight on what the people think, but what about you, what do you think, how do you answer the question, who do you say that I am. And Peter answers, but before we look at the answer given, we need to understand that Peter is merely **the spokesman for the disciples.** It's not like in Peter's answer that none of the others weren't thinking the answer Peter gives or that Peter's answer had not already been talked about. Several times we've seen the disciples recognize that Jesus is no mere man. They ask as Jesus calms the seas, "What sort of man is this?" When Jesus walked on the water, the disciples responded in worship of Him, saying, "truly you are the Son of God." The other gospel writers record similar responses from the disciples as they try to come to grips with who Jesus is, and now He asks them directly and Peter the spokesman speaks for the group. Verse 16, "*Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'*" Peter, on behalf of the disciples, has made a clear, direct, and profound statement of faith in who Jesus is. Peter says three things. First, Jesus you are the Christ – **recognizing that Jesus is the promised Messiah** spoken of throughout the Old Testament. And you'll note, Jesus will not correct Peter on this title. Jesus has Himself been very careful not to use titles when people ask about Him that would be misunderstood. Jesus' favorite way to refer to Himself is as Son of Man, because while a title applied to the one who would be the Messiah from the Old Testament, it did not carry the political overtones that the people had attached to titles like Christ or Son of David.

Second, Peter says you are the Son of God. And this **recognizes the intimacy that Jesus has taught and displayed in His relationship with God.** While the Jews would have had no problem talking about God in terms of their father, it was a somewhat distant relationship. It was in the context of saying our father, and thought of more as a description of God's providing and protecting His people, rather than a relationship with His people. Jesus on the other hand frequently referred to God as Father, but to the further step of calling God *my* Father.

The third thing Peter says is that Jesus is not only the Son of God but the Son of the living God. And **this recognizes the unique nature of the God of the Bible** over against any other who would claim to be a god. The God of the Bible is the living God, not a mute god like those represented by idols, not a humanized god like the greek and roman gods, the God of the Bible is living and is the possessor and dispenser of life itself. Peter's profession in answer to Jesus' question is a profound statement of faith in Jesus – You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. We see that you are the Promised and Anointed One, sent from Your Father, who is the author and giver of all life. And again note, Jesus makes absolutely no correction to Peter's answer. It is accepted by Jesus as fact and truth, because it is.

While Jesus does not correct Peter, He does have something to say to Him. Verse 17, *“And Jesus answered Him, ‘Blessed are you Simon Bar-Jonah!’* Jesus answers Peter with Peter's full name: Simon Bar-Jonah. Simon in Hebrew means “hear or listen”, and bar Jonah means son of John. As you Peter have said that I am the Christ, the Son of the living God, Blessed are you Simon the son of John. But Jesus has more to say. And what Jesus says in verses 17, 18, and 19 has caused no end of controversy, misunderstanding, and questions. For example, the Roman Catholic teaching of the Papacy and Apostolic succession from Peter comes from these verses. So we will by no means resolve all of the issues and controversies. But Jesus' response to Peter's confession is important.

In response to Peter's confession, Jesus has four things He says to Peter, some which are directly about Peter, and others that help us to understand some of Jesus' work. The first thing Jesus says is that **a true understanding of Christ does not come from human invention**. Verse 17, *“Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.”* Peter does not say what He does in answer to Jesus question about who the disciples say that He is because Peter has some kind of secret knowledge, or intellectual capacity, or because He is especially great – Jesus says, a true understanding of Christ does not come from human invention, but **divine revelation**. Peter, nor the disciples, are the source of this insight into who Jesus is – it comes directly and only from God the Father. God reveals Himself to whomever He will on God's terms and not man's. Jesus said in Matthew 11:27, *“All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him.”* In other words, Jesus and Jesus alone will make the Father known to human beings.

The second pronouncement Jesus makes is personal to Peter. As protestant Christians, standing in the stream of church history that has broken away from the Catholic Church and its teachings, especially with regard to the Pope and papacy, we have tended to throw out the baby with the bathwater when it comes to Peter. Because of the overly exalted place and authority the Catholic Church has given to Peter, we Protestants have tended to under play the important role Peter played in the early years of the church. **Peter does have a foundational role in the early church's establishment**. Verse 18, Jesus says, *“And I tell you, you are Peter, and in this rock I will build my church”*, skip to verse 19 for a moment, *“I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”* You can't get away from it, all of what Jesus says here is directed specifically to Peter. The name Peter means rock, and it was a nickname that Jesus gave to Peter. This is not the first time it is used, nor will it be the last. Why Jesus gave Peter this nickname we don't know. It could be because Peter sometimes has rocks in his head, he says some dumb things, does some impulsive things. But Peter is also a solid member of the disciples, a stronghold and secure person that can be depended on. Whatever the reason for the nickname, Jesus pulls out some significance for it here – Peter, you are a rock, and as a rock you will have a foundational role as I build my church. Jesus also says that Peter will be given the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Now what does that mean? Let me ask you a question, what do keys do, what is a primary function of a key? It's to lock or unlock something right, perhaps we might say bind or loose? Now let me ask you this. From the book of Acts, which gives us the early history of churches founding, who preaches the first sermon of the church? Acts 2, Peter does. He preaches Jesus Christ crucified and resurrected and the necessity of those who would be saved to repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ alone to be saved. In Acts 2, it's Peter who plays the foundational role of opening the gospel to the Jewish people. In Acts 8, as the gospel is going out beyond the formal borders of Israel, now into Samaria, Peter is sent, preaches, and is used of God to open the door of the gospel to the Samaritans. In Acts 10, Peter is sent by God to the home of Cornelius, a gentile, and when Peter arrives, he preaches Christ crucified and resurrected and the necessity of those who would be saved to repent and trust in Jesus alone for salvation. So in the first steps of the early church's foundation, Peter is the one whom God sovereignly used to unlock the gospel for the Jews, the Samaritans, and the Gentiles. Jesus told His disciples in Acts 1:8, *“You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem (among the Jews) and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (to*

all people).” Peter has a foundational role and we must understand that if we are going to understand what Jesus is saying here in Matthew 16. **But Peter is not THE foundation, Jesus is.** The message of Peter, the message of the Apostles, the message of Paul, and James, and the whole New Testament is clear – Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God; and we must trust in Jesus alone for our salvation.

Jesus says a third thing to Peter, **the church is built with human beings... but it is not built by human means, Jesus builds His church.** When we talk about the word church, in greek ekklesia, Jesus does not have in mind buildings and programs and the like. Those are not wrong nor are the completely out of Jesus’ mind, but when He uses that word here in Matthew 16:18, he is talking about the gathered community of people that together profess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. He is talking about disciples, Jesus has in mind believers; Christians. But the church is not built by Peter, the other Apostles, Paul, or me, or you – the church is built by Jesus. “... *upon this rock I will build my church*”, Jesus says.

Jesus says one last thing that’s important for us to understand, verse 18, “... *on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*” The gates of hell is a euphemism the Jews used to talk about death. And Jesus is making a simple statement about the nature of the church, the community of Christ – **the church will always be under the threat of death... but death cannot stop this Messiah, nor His messengers.** Friends, God’s people are always in some place on earth under the threat of death. We have seen this so many times already with respect to Jesus in Matthew’s gospel; neither Jesus nor His message are truly popular with human beings the love and cherish their sin. And to be clear, that is every human being that ever has or ever will exist. We are all enemies of God, enemies of Christ, enemies of the gospel. And until God moves to draw us to Himself, to Himself bring us to spiritual life, to Himself grant us the gift of faith and repentance, we will only ever be enemies of Christ and His gospel. And we see the church, the people of God, under the threat of death still today. Sometimes overt as it has been in China the last few months, sometimes hard to see as I believe is the case in much of the American church. But while under the threat of death, like our Messiah Jesus whom death could not hold in the ground, death will also not defeat His messengers or His church. And that should give us boldness as Jesus’ followers to know that there is no power on earth or under the earth that will stop what Jesus is building.

What’s this all mean for our lives? Three brief applications. Number 1: **The rock of the church today are the people of God proclaiming Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.** If you know Jesus as Lord and Savior, if you profess Jesus is the Christ, the promised One of God, who has come to take away the sins of the world, then you are a rock, a stone, in the foundation of the church Jesus is building His church with. You are being used of Jesus to build His kingdom and proclaiming His gospel to others.

And this leads to the second application for us: **Because we know Jesus intimately we must proclaim Him boldly.** Friends, as Jesus builds His church, there is no power that will stop it. We may come under any number of threats from those who do not want to hear the gospel or bow the knee to Jesus, but because we know Him we are to boldly make Him known.

And this leads us to perhaps the most important application we can take from this passage – **what you believe about Jesus determines how you will follow Him.** If you think Jesus was a good teacher, then you will follow Him like you would a good teacher. If you think Jesus merely had some good ideas, then you will listen to what He says every once in a while. If you think Jesus was a good example, then you will try to follow only His example. However, if you believe Jesus was and is the promised Messiah who came to earth to save us from our sins, to conquer sin and death, and to reign and rule over all as Lord, then that changes everything about how you live. The church is built upon people who believe in the Jesus and know Him intimately. Do you know Jesus, who is Christ the Son of the living God?

The Perception of the People (16:13-14)

- The general public sees Jesus as _____ of some _____
- The people hold a predominantly _____ picture of Jesus

The Profession of Peter (16:15-16)

- Peter answers as _____ for the Disciples
 - “*You are the Christ*” – recognizing Jesus as the _____
 - “*the Son of*” – recognizing the _____ Jesus claims with _____
 - “*the living God*” – recognizing the _____ of God

The Pronouncement of Jesus (16:17-20)

- A true understanding of Christ is not from _____ ...
... but _____
- Peter has a _____ role in the early church’s _____ ...
... but Peter is not _____, Jesus _____
- The church is built with _____ ...
... but it is not built by _____, Jesus _____ His church
- The church will always be under the threat _____ ...
... but death cannot _____ this Messiah, nor _____

Applications:

1. The _____ of the church today are the people of God _____
Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God
2. Because we know Jesus _____ we must proclaim Him _____
3. What you _____ about Jesus _____ how you’ll _____ Him

Open Your Heart and Mind

-

Finding God in His Word

Read Matthew 16:13-20

- If you were to randomly ask someone what they thought about Jesus, what answers do you think you would hear?
- How has Peter demonstrated himself as a spokesman for the disciples?
- In the answer Peter gives, what do you think the disciples have seen and experienced that have led them, and Peter, to this conclusion that Jesus is the Christ? Why do you think others are struggling to see that?
- How has Jesus taught the disciples about the unique relationship He has with God as His Father? How do we share in this relationship as Jesus' followers ourselves?
- Why is it important to understand that the God of the Bible is the living God? What are some of the implications for this idea? How does it stand in contrast to other gods?
- Jesus's answer to Peter is very personal. What does it mean that flesh and blood did not reveal this truth of who Jesus is but God Himself does? Why does this matter? What are the further implications for this in the life and ministry of Christians today?
- Peter is an important player in the early founding of the church. Pastor Malcolm talked about Peter being present as the one who "unlocked" the gospel for the Jews (Acts 2), the Samaritans (Acts 8), and the Gentiles (Acts 10). Why is seeing Peter's role important? Why is it important to see that there are limits on the role?
- What can we learn from being reminded that Jesus builds the church? What are other things we put up as building the church that aren't Jesus?
- Why would it be a comfort to Jesus' disciples to know that death will not prevail against the church? How does that encourage us to day?

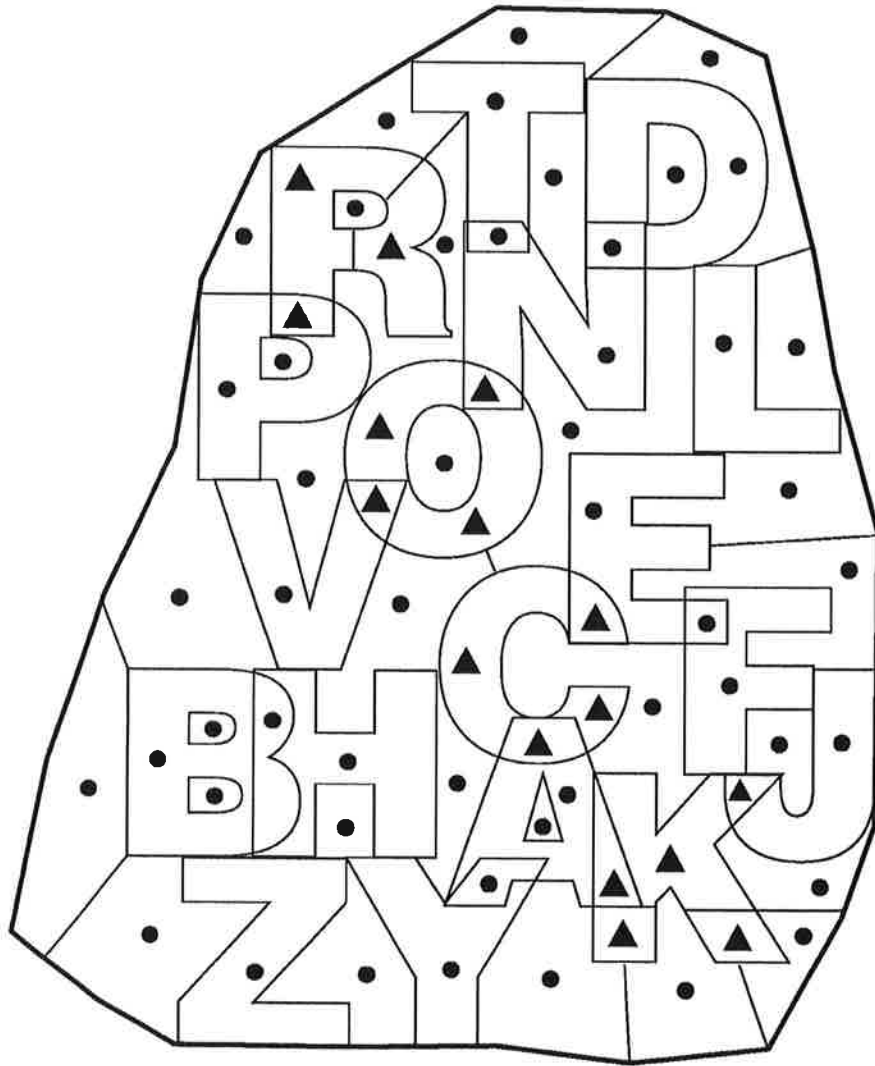
Live the Christ Life

1. The central confession of Peter, that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God, is the central and foundational message of the church. Pray that God will give you opportunity to share this with others this week.
2. If someone were to ask you what you think about Jesus, how would you honestly answer? What motivates your discipleship and following Jesus in your life? Are there things you need to get rid of that you think about Jesus and/or things you need to embrace?

Jesus blessed Peter.

January 13, 2019 • Matthew 16:13-20

What does Peter's name mean?
Shade in the shapes with ▲ .



Jesus Is Christ

Jesus asked His disciples,
"Who do people say I am?"

Find and count:  4 or 5

 6 or 7



Reedley MB Church

Kid's Notes

1362 L Street

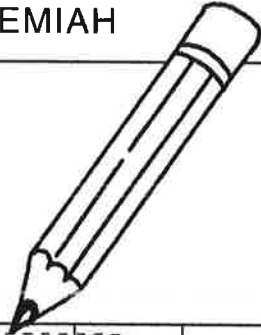
Reedley, CA 93654

www.reedleymbc.org

The disciples replied to Jesus' question.

Find and **circle** these words in the puzzle below.

JOHN ELIJAH JEREMIAH



N	B	K	J	O	H	N	L
E	L	I	J	A	H	W	Y
Z	V	R	B	K	D	G	S
J	E	R	E	M	I	A	H



Jesus then asked the disciples who He was. Peter said, "You are the Christ ..."

Use the code below to fill in Peter's answer.

= h = i = o = s

"... t _____ e _____ n

_____ f t _____ e

l _____ v _____ ng

G _____ d."