

# Discussion Questions

## INTRODUCTION

What was it like to be one of the first followers of Jesus? How Jesus related to his first followers is a way to anticipate how He might relate to us. What can we learn about being faithful 21st century followers?

## GETTING STARTED

1. Many times in scripture, God gave people a new name. What nickname(s) have you been given throughout your life? Why were you given this nickname? How did you feel about this name?
2. It's often said that our strengths can be a double-edged sword. How and in what ways have you seen this to be true?

## BIBLE IDEA

3. Read John 1:42. What do you think Jesus "saw" when he looked at Simon? How do you think his new name impacted Simon (Peter)? How did it impact how he saw himself and his strengths?
4. Sean's main point is "Gifts are only as good as the hands they are placed in!"
  - Recall some of the exploits from Simon Peter's life as recorded in the gospels, and give examples of how Sean's main point applies to Peter. If Jesus called him a "rock," why do you think this "rock" messed up so badly so often?
  - Consider the Peter we see in the book of Acts. What shaped Peter so that he became the "rock" that God intended?
6. If Jesus were to give you a nickname based on your strengths, what nickname might He give you?
5. State one of your God-given gifts or strengths. How have you seen both the positive and negative side of this gift manifested in your life?
  - Read Romans 8:5-8; 13 and Galatians 5:13; 15-18. How do these verses help explain why our gifts can have a positive and negative side?
  - How have you dealt with the negative aspects of your gifts? How could these verses help you?

## NEXT STEPS

6. What benefits could you see if you let God shape the gifts He's given you?
7. What gift is God asking you to surrender, so that He can shape it? What would that look like?

## WHAT TO DO WITH A ROCK? The Followers #1

**Matt 16:18**

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

**John 1:42**

And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter)

\_\_\_\_\_ *are only as good as the* \_\_\_\_\_ *they are placed in!*

**A. Sometimes God uses a \_\_\_\_\_.**

Matt 26:33-35; Luke 22:61-62

**B. Sometimes God gives you a \_\_\_\_\_!**

John 21:15-17

**C. Sometimes God gives you a new \_\_\_\_\_!**

Acts 10:9-16