



Connect Discussion Guide

04.24.22 Message | Keith Ehresman | Matthew 16:15-17; John 1:1-14

Key Scriptures:

“He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.”

- Matthew 16:15-17

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

- John 14:6

...and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

- Revelation 1:5-8

Message Highlights:

- We don't have to fully understand the trinity to accept and believe that one God exists in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- If a belief system doesn't hold that Jesus is the one true God, then it is not true Christianity and it won't have the power of God that brings salvation.
- Jesus possesses divine attributes, all characteristic of God yet attributed to Jesus.
- Jesus has the authority to ask things of us that nobody else can, and that is when we truly become alive and find purpose in our lives.

Conversation Starter:

Are you someone who likes to plan every detail or sit back, relax and let someone else do the planning?

Discuss the Message:

1. Our upbringing matters: who was Jesus to you as a child? How did you relate to him during your young adulthood? Who is he to you now?
 - a) How has your relationship with Jesus been influenced by those you look up to?
 - b) Did any of the peoples' responses in the video "Who is Jesus?" stand out to you? Why?
2. The following analogy attempts to explain how God can exist in three persons: Water in the form of ice, liquid and steam.
 - a) How does this analogy fall short of capturing the nature of the trinity?
 - b) How can we lean into the complex nature of the trinity and draw even closer to the Lord, rather than letting the unknowns span a distance between us and the Lord?
3. Read John 1:1-14 and make a list of the truths this passage reveals about who God is. The list you just made may seem like common sense, however one small error in belief can make a major impact.
 - a) Why does it matter that we have a robust understanding of the attributes of God?
 - b) What does it mean to be an ambassador of Christ? What is required of us to assume the responsibilities of this role?
4. Though Jesus cares about us holistically, opinions and feelings included, ultimately our faith is not a matter of opinion but of belief.
 - a) Discuss the intersection of Jesus' complete care and concern for us alongside the reality that our submission to God's truth rather than our own is of utmost importance.

Pray:

Father in Heaven, we thank you and praise you for revealing your Son to us! Jesus, we confess that you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God! Holy Spirit, we ask that you will deepen our understanding and knowledge of you and your Word, that we might live as ambassadors for your kingdom, leading others to find and follow Jesus as the way, the truth and the life. Amen.