

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK



Madagascar | Phil & Vala Long

- PRAISE**
- for the new English outreach opportunities and for the Saturday Kid’s Bible Club
 - for the beginning of regular Sunday morning meetings. We already have 100+ attending.
 - for people willing to serve including missions interns, a 2 groups from US churches.
- PRAY**
- for people who we have met through outreach events to find their way to church.
 - for upcoming outreach events before children head back to school and that these events are successful in reaching the lost.
 - for the opportunity of starting a youth group, we hope to start a group in September.



Handout: 09/17/23
Study Date: 09/23/23

Game Time! Let’s Go!

Jesus then took his disciples to Caesarea Philippi, a city about twenty-five miles north of the Sea of Galilee where there was a temple honoring the Roman emperor Caesar Augustus. Perhaps the reverence for a mortal man is what prompted Jesus to ask his followers, Who do people say that the Son of Man is?

Apparently, there was a lot of speculation among the crowds about Jesus. Like Herod Antipas (14:1–2), some thought he was John the Baptist back from the dead—or one of the Old Testament prophets (16:14). But after his disciples relayed all the gossip concerning Jesus, he got to his real question: Who do you say that I am? (16:15). The “you” here is plural, so the question was addressed to the entire group.

Simon Peter quickly and correctly answered: You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God (16:16). Jesus affirmed this great confession of faith by praising God the Father for revealing this truth to Peter and blessing him (16:17). That opened the door for an announcement from Jesus. Something so awesome that hell itself can’t overpower it was coming: the church (16:18).

No matter how much Satan attacks, the church will win, and hell will lose. The offensive advance of the church exercising kingdom authority overrides hell’s attempts to stop it.

But how would Jesus accomplish his building program? Since Peter confessed Jesus as the Christ, Jesus used his name in a word play. In Greek, Peter’s name is petros, which means “stone.” But when Jesus said, On this rock I will build my church (16:18), he used the Greek word petra, which was a collection of rocks knitted together to form a larger slab. Jesus’s church, then, would be comprised of his unified followers who confess him as the Christ, the Son of the living God, as Peter did.

The Greek word for “church” is ekklēsia, a term used to refer to an assembly or gathering of people, especially for legal purposes (see Acts 19:39–41). The church is like an embassy. The U.S. has embassies throughout the world, and the people working at an embassy are to live out the values and laws of the U.S. as they represent their homeland in a foreign country. Each embassy, then, is a little bit of America a long way from home. Similarly, the church of the Lord Jesus is to adopt the agenda of its heavenly King and enact it on earth. Christ’s church is a little bit of heaven a long way from home, designed to withstand the authority of hell (its gates) (16:18). Hell’s attempt to stop the church’s progress in history is thwarted as the church executes heaven’s authority on earth.

Source: Tony Evans Bible Commentary

KEY VERSE

Matthew 16:18 (NKJV)

And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Matthew 16:13-19; I Peter 4:10; Mark 10:45

Introduction

1. What are some misconceptions about Jesus that some people in our culture have?
2. What does today's readings teach us about who Jesus is and what His plans are for our church?

Tuesday: Matthew 16:13-17; Romans 10:9-10; I John 4:1-3

Let's Go and Proclaim Jesus' Name

3. What question did Jesus ask his disciples in today's readings? How did Peter answer Him?
4. How do you answer that question for yourself?

Wednesday: Matthew 16:18; Acts 4:10-12, 10:25-26

Jesus is the Solid Rock of the Church

5. What is a cornerstone? What does it mean that Jesus is the chief cornerstone?
6. Why is important that Jesus is the foundation of the church?

Thursday: Matthew 16:18; I Corinthians 3:5-8

Jesus is the Unstoppable Constructor of the Church

7. What did Jesus mean when he said "I will build My Church"? How does that impact you as you serve Him?
8. What did Jesus mean when he said "the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."? How does this impact you as you serve Him?
9. What is your role in ministry? What is God's role in your ministry?

Friday: Matthew 16:19; I Corinthians 15:1-4; Romans 1:16

Let's Go and Distribute Jesus' Keys

10. What are the keys that Jesus is referring to in today's readings?
11. What is the gospel based upon today's readings?
12. What has God been teaching you through our Get in the Game sermon series? What will you do?