

Week 1: "Who Do You Say I Am?"

Big Idea: Our answer to this key question determines the direction of our lives.

Connect with God and each other. (1/3 of meeting)

- Icebreaker: What is the worst job you ever had?
- Briefly share a high and a low from your week.
- How do you hope to grow spiritually over the next 6 weeks?
- Let's spend time in prayer, taking turns completing the sentence "Thank you God for _____." Have someone close in prayer when it feels like we are done, asking for the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to hear from God.

Leader: Share the Group Guidelines from page ___ before we begin discussion. Bring attention to these periodically, especially on weeks with new guests.

Discover what God is saying to you. (1/3 of meeting)

Read [Matthew 16:13-20](#)

Context: Cesarea Phillipi was a central place for pagan worship. As Jesus walked through with his disciples, they would be seeing idols and shrines to pagan gods as well as a cave thought to be a gate to Hades.

- What is significant to you from this passage?
- Why does it matter that Jesus was human?
- For Peter to say Jesus was the Messiah meant that Jesus was the promised savior of the Law and Prophets in the Old Testament. What does Jesus as Messiah mean to you?
- Share one way you are different because you are following Jesus.
- What prevents you from seeing Jesus clearly in your day to day life?

Go do it! (1/3 of meeting)

- How would you answer Jesus' question today, "Who do you say I am?"
- Based on your answer, in what way does your life need to change in order to match that declaration?
- Close with prayer:
 - For the action steps you feel called to take.
 - Finish by praying for the empty chair, that God would use one of us to invite someone to fill it next week.