



Diocese of Chichester

Living the Mystery of Faith

THE YEAR OF MATTHEW

YOUTH LENT COURSE

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

WEEK 5

PASSION

AIM/THEME

What is our identity in Christ?

LEARNING OUTCOME

Jesus says 'I will build my church' It's God's mission but we need to be fit to join in. Who are you in Christ and how are you prepared to join in!

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Facility to play a video from YouTube
- Identity game printed and cut out
- Headbands or tape or some way to connect printouts to people's foreheads
- Reflective card/mirror paper
- Pens that will write on the mirror card
- Newspapers
- Masking tape
- Printouts of takeaway and memoryverse

INFORMAL START

What were your random acts of kindness in the last week? How were they received? How did you feel doing it? Did you feel God's leading in your RAOK? If so, how did he reveal himself?



ICEBREAKER

IDENTITY GAME

Identity game with name cards and yes no questions.

If you can get access to sweat bands these can be used to hold a small piece of card in place on the forehead. Each person has the name of a famous person on their head which they don't know.

They have to ask yes or no questions to others in the group to work out who they are.

You can do this in pairs or more like charades depending on the size of your group.

BIBLE READING & CONTEXT

MATTHEW 16:13-20

Jesus explains he must suffer and die

There are a few things that jump out in this passage other than the obvious. Firstly Jesus says to Peter on you I will build my church and we'll dig into that a little more, later on.

Jesus also says to Peter, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Permission to set rules and standards for the church, giving Peter similar dominion to how God gave dominion over the garden of eden in Genesis. There is a parallel we can draw between the church and all of creation. The mission is God's as is the churches, but we must participate in this church in the way that we must participate in God's creation.

Then in verse 20 Jesus orders his disciples not to tell anyone that he is the messiah! How do you keep something like that a secret? This was probably of practical importance for Jesus to ensure that he could continue his ministry without drawing large crowds or leaders thinking that he was setting up as an opposition political or military leader.

VIDEO CLIP

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=269KUW6036W](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=269KUW6036W)



Jesus asks His disciples, "Who do people say I am?" They throw out names: John the Baptist, Elijah, a prophet. But then Jesus makes it personal: "Who do you say I am?"

Peter says: "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God." Jesus replies, "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church."

When Peter names who Jesus is, Jesus names who Peter is. It's the same for us. When we discover who Jesus really is, we also discover who we are and our true identity, our calling, our purpose.

Who are you in Christ? You're chosen, forgiven, gifted, and called.

The Church isn't built with bricks, it's built with people who know who they are and live it out.

DISCUSSION

Why do you think Jesus asked, “Who do you say I am?”

- Prompt: What difference does it make to personally answer that question?
- Follow-up: How does your picture of Jesus shape who you are becoming?

When Peter recognises Jesus, Jesus gives Peter a new identity and purpose.

How does knowing Jesus help us understand who we are?

- Prompt: Think about labels people put on us funny, quiet, clever, shy. Maybe people give us negative names, ugly, stupid, slow. Our self identity is informed by what others feedback to us...like a mirror in which we see ourselves. The problem is that it's not an accurate mirror. How does this idea of how our identity is informed sit with you?
- Important follow-up: Which names ones does Jesus actually give us? He says we're loved, we're chosen, we're forgiven, we're good, we're brave, we're kind, we're strong, we're tough, we're resilient. Those are the names God gives you! God is the mirror we should use to see our identity. Where do you see your own identity in Christ?
- How can you see more of what God says about you?

Jesus said, “I will build my church.”

What do you think it means to be “fit to join in” with God’s mission today?

- Prompt: Is it about skills, faith, willingness, or something else?
- Follow-up: What might God be preparing you for right now?
- Extra: There's a Latin name that scholars use to talk about this. It's “Missio Dei” which means the Mission of God. God owns the mission! Our job is just to see where he's working and join in!

If the Church is people, not buildings, what kind of Church do we want to help build?

- Prompt: What should a Church look like if it's built by Jesus?
- Follow-up: How can we each help make that happen?

RESPONSE

- Give each young person a piece of mirror/reflective card
- Ask them to quietly look at their reflection and think about how they usually see themselves, ask them to reflect quietly on what labels or thoughts come up.
- Hand out pens that will write on the mirror card (might need marker pens) and ask them to write one word or phrase that Jesus might say about them (eg. Loved, Forgiven, Brave, Chosen, Kind).
- Have them hold the mirror up whilst you pray.
- Leader prayer:
 - “Jesus, thank You that when we see You, we begin to see ourselves clearly.
 - Help us live out who You say we are and see that we are ready to join in Your mission.”
- During the reflection play the song: “Who You Say I Am” (Hillsong)



MEMORY VERSE

As this is the last week see how many of the previous memory verses young people can remember.

You could have the group say it together, inserting their own names instead of Peter's: "And I tell you that you are [Name], and on this rock I will build my church!"

**"AND I TELL YOU THAT YOU ARE PETER, AND
ON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH,"
MATTHEW 16:18**



TAKEAWAY

Mirror Time Challenge

Keep your mirror moment going this week.

How:

- Each morning this week, look in your mirror and say out loud one truth about who you are in Christ (I am loved, I am chosen, I belong to Jesus).

Why:

- Speaking truth over yourself builds confidence and roots your day in who God says you are, not what the world says. Saying these affirmations over yourself is not just a great spiritual practice but is supported in science too.

What we speak out to ourselves we inhabit!

FINAL GAME/ACTIVITY

How did we get to the end of this material without talking about Lentils even once?

Split into teams and using just newspaper and masking tape, build a bridge to go between two tables.

Once the bridges have been constructed place increasingly heavier objects onto the bridge to test its strength.

Strongest bridge wins!



Taylor Swift	Harry Styles
Ed Sheeran	Billie Eilish
Beyoncé	Tom Holland
Donald Trump	Zendaya
Lewis Hamilton	King Charles III

Prince William	Mr Beast
Lewis Capaldi	Barbie
Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson	Marcus Rashford
Jonah	Homer Simpson
The person this card is stuck to	Shrek

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