

## ► Discussion Guide

The goal of this Discussion Guide is more than to simply answer questions, but to help you interact with God. Don't rush through this. Allow space for God to reveal Himself to you.

Find a Small Group at [brookwoodchurch.org/smallgroups](http://brookwoodchurch.org/smallgroups).  
*Let's grow in real life together!*

### Conversation Starter

What is one episode or story in the New Testament you wish you would have been there to see?

### Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

Read [Matthew 16:13-17](#) (The beginning of Reading #96 in *The Life of Jesus*).

1. It is common for people to form their beliefs and convictions from the teachings and beliefs of other people. Who has been most influential in shaping what you believe about Jesus and Christianity?
2. Jesus moved from the more general *Who do **people** say that I am?* to the more specific *Who do **you** say that I am?* Why is it important to have your own convictions rather than to rely on the beliefs of others?
3. Have you ever been in danger of relying too much on the beliefs of others? Explain. How can you overcome this?
4. What's the difference between figuring something out **on your own**, and having it revealed to you **by God** ([vs. 17](#))?  
*See also [1 Corinthians 2:13-15](#).*
5. What is something you believe is true about God that you would love to experience more fully yourself? *See also [John 17:3](#).*
6. How do you experience Jesus in your personal, daily life?

Read [Matthew 16:18-20](#) (continuing in Reading #96 in *The Life of Jesus*).

7. What truths are being taught in [vs. 18](#)? *See also [Ephesians 2:20-21](#).*
8. What are the *keys of the kingdom of heaven* and what did Jesus mean in [vs. 19](#)? How does this apply to you today? *See also [John 20:23](#).*

### Wrapping it Up

9. What are the major truths in this passage of the Bible?  
([Matthew 16:13-20](#), Reading # 96 in *The Life of Jesus*)
10. What is one major take away for your life?

### Soul Training

Use these statements to develop focus and intentionality.

To pursue a more personal relationship with Jesus:

- It would be good for me to keep doing, or do more of \_\_\_\_\_.
- It would be good for me to stop doing, or do less of \_\_\_\_\_.
- It would be good for me to start doing \_\_\_\_\_.

*Ask God to guide you in these areas and help you follow through!*

### Memory Verse

*And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the forces of Hades will not overpower it.* [Matthew 16:18 \(HCSB\)](#)

### Daily Reading

Day	<i>The Life of Jesus</i> Reading #	or	Bible Reference
May 8	96		<a href="#">Matthew 16:13-20</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 8:27-30</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 9:18-20</a>
May 9	97		<a href="#">Matthew 16:21-28</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 8:31-9:1</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 9:21-27</a>
May 10	98		<a href="#">Matthew 17:1-8</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 9:2-8</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 9:28-36</a>
May 11	99		<a href="#">Matthew 17:9-13</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 9:9-13</a>
May 12	100		<a href="#">Matthew 17:14-21</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 9:14-29</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 9:37-42</a>

### Prepare for Next Sunday

On Sunday, May 14, we'll take a closer look at servanthood as seen in [Matthew 18:1-11](#); [Mark 9:33-50](#); and [Luke 9:46-50](#). These three passages are harmonized in Reading #103 in *The Life of Jesus*.