

LIKE A ROCK (THE CHURCH)

Matthew 16:13–20

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Matthew 16:18

MEMORY VERSE

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. **Matthew 16:18**

“Mom,” Mark called. “I had a chance to share my faith with Aja, my East Indian friend at school.” “So, how did it go?” Mom asked. “OK, I guess, but I don’t think he really got it,” replied Mark. “Oh?” said Mom. “Why not?” “Well,” Mark continued, “he seemed to understand my own faith in Christ, and he also liked the whole thing about eternal life, but believing that Christ is the Son of God was where it broke down for him.” “I see,” said Mom. “I think that’s where it breaks down for a lot of people,” she said. “People have to come to the place in their own hearts and in their own faith where they can publicly confess Christ to be who He truly is. That’s a God thing. In other words, it’s God who places that truth in us so that we acknowledge that it’s true. You did the right thing, though. You planted the seed. Now let the Holy Spirit take over.”

Read Matthew 16:13–20. Peter confessed to Jesus that He was the “Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus immediately made it known that only the Father could reveal this truth.

It’s important for everyone who believes in Jesus to confess openly who He really is. That is part of stepping out in faith. When He is made known as in the words of Peter, it shows a powerful confession and testimony of faith.

How do you confess Jesus to those around you? Do you confess both through your words and actions? Do your teenagers see you do this? Set an example for them of confessing your faith both by what you say and by what you do.

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

Family members gather and make true confessions in these areas: **Who ate the last bowl of ice cream the last time we had a box? How many minutes late have you ever stayed out past your curfew? How long did you study for your last test at school? Who always leaves that little toothpaste blob in the sink? Which do you prefer: Your toilet paper coming off the roll over or under?** A family member says: **These are funny confessions, but there are some confessions that people have made when they laid down their lives for their faith.**

Explore . . .

First, family members respond to the question: **Who is Jesus?** Then, a family member reads Matthew 16:13–20. A family member says: **In this passage Peter made a powerful confession in response to Jesus’ question, “Who do you say I am?”** Family members answer: **How did Peter respond? Why did Jesus say that this truth was not revealed to Peter by man, but by God? Why is that so significant for us to remember?**

Transform . . .

Family members respond to the question: **What has God revealed to you about Jesus that you would be willing to confess to others?**

Pray that your family members will be open and ready to confess Christ as the Son of the living God each day of their lives.