



Matthew 16:13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. 18 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.

Icebreaker

What is the best and the worst piece of advice you have ever received?

Conversation Starters

1. Dave said, “Questions play an important role in our life long journey with Jesus.” What questions have been urgent at different stages of your journey encountering and following Jesus?”
2. What helped you find answers to your questions?
3. What do you celebrate and what bothers you about the church?
4. **Read Matthew 16:13-18.** What does it mean to you that the church was built upon the foundation of Simon Peter’s answer to Jesus’ question, “Who do you say I am? What else jumps out at you from this passage?”
5. What difference, if any does it make if the church belongs to its people or belongs to Jesus?
6. When do you ask, Is this all worth it? This following Jesus AND participating in the church? Do you agree with Dave when he says, “the **AND** is important, it is a package deal, following Jesus **AND** participating in the church?”
7. Can you describe one time when you really needed the church and it came through for you?