

PETER'S CONFESSION

Scripture: Matthew 16:13-28, Mark 8:27-38

Materials Needed:
worksheet

Key Verse:

Matthew 16:16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

Objectives: As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know—When Jesus asked his disciples about His identity, Peter clearly stated that He was the Christ, the Son of the living God, which Jesus said had been revealed to him by the Father

To Realize—The ability to see and understand spiritual things comes from the Father.

To Respond by—asking God for spiritual insight in order to understand and obey what He is doing.

Setting up the Story:

Look up an article that states that Jesus was a great leader or prophet. How do we know that this isn't true? We say, "Jesus is the Son of God" but other people say, "Jesus is a prophet" and they think they are just as right as we think we are. How can a person KNOW? This question isn't new for today. The people who had met Jesus were wondering how they could KNOW too.

Scripture

Telling the story:

- I. Jesus Asks Who People Say He is
 - A. Traveling in Caesarea Philippi
 - B. Jesus asks, "Who do men say that I am?"
 - C. Disciples answer
 - A. John the B
 - B. Elijah
 - C. Jeremiah
 - D. One of prophets

As you tell the story:

Look up on maps.

Notice that all of the answers people gave were "prophets." The common belief was that Jesus was ____ (one of the prophets/a prophet)

He got it! This was a truth that not everyone saw. Jesus' identity was not just "a prophet"—He was actually the anointed one of God: the Son of God sent to fulfill the

- II. Peter Confesses the Truth About Who Jesus is
 - A. Jesus asks, “Who do YOU say that I am?”
 - B. Peter answers
 - A. You are the Christ (Messiah)
 - B. the Son of the living God
- III. Jesus praises answer
 - A. blessed for knowing
 - B. God had revealed it

promises of God.

How do you think it made Jesus feel, in the midst of having all these other disciples who had recently left him, to have his closest disciples know with conviction, who he REALLY was?!

Concluding the Story:

How did Jesus say that Peter KNEW the truth about Him? He had done miracles—but so had the prophets from long ago. He had been identified by John the Baptist as the Messiah: but other had seen and heard John say those things, too. He had been teaching His disciples, but others had heard His teachings, too. How did Peter know the truth about Jesus? God, the Father, had revealed it to Peter—he let Peter SEE the truth that Jesus wasn’t just a prophet—He was the Son of God!

Sometimes when we see a spiritual truth, we are all happy and think “Wow—how could anyone else miss this?!” But we don’t see true things because we are more clever or smarter or more spiritual than anyone else. How do we see the TRUTH about Jesus and God’s Word? God, the Father, shows us the truth.

Let’s ask Him to show us His truth.