

## PETER'S IDEAS

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

**Materials Needed: worksheets**

**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, but when Peter rebuked Jesus for speaking of a crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus recognized that Peter was being used as an instrument of Satan because he wasn't thinking God's way, but with his own ideas.

To Realize—Even one's friends who know the truth about God may be used by Satan as an instrument of temptation when they are not thinking God's way but with their own ideas.

To Respond by—discerning when Satan is tempting them through their close friends.

### Setting up the Story:

Write the following two statements on the board:

T/F One of the best ways to walk in God's truth is to hang around Christian friends.

T/F Many temptations a Christian faces will come when he is with Christian friends.

If I had had to answer these questions when I was a teenager, I would have definitely answered the first one true. (Tell story about two friends in 5-6<sup>th</sup> grades: influential.) God gave me some really good Christian friends to help me grow in my walk with God. But I wish I had known something about the answer to the second one that is in today's lesson. In fact, I did learn the answer, but I didn't realize until I was studying this passage, that it was right here all the time.

(do brief review from Feeding 5,000—they want to make him king--and Galilean Crisis—many fall away because he's not going to give them more bread). Jesus is now focusing his time and teaching on the 12 Disciples.

Scripture **Telling the story:**

- I. Peter States that Jesus is the Chris
  - A. Traveling in Caesarea Philippi
  - B. Jesus asks, "Who do men say that I am?"
  - C. Disciples answer
    1. John the B
    2. Elijah
    3. Jeremiah

**As you tell the story:**

Look up on maps.

<p>4. One of prophets</p> <p>D. Jesus asks, "Who do YOU say that I am?"</p> <p>E. Peter answers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. You are the Christ (Messiah)</li> <li>2. the Son of the living God</li> </ol> <p>F. Jesus praises answer</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. blessed for knowing</li> <li>2. God had revealed it</li> </ol>	<p>Notice that all of the answers people gave were "prophets." The common belief was that Jesus was ____ (one of the prophets/a prophet)</p> <p>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 promises of God.</p> <p>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?!</p>
<p>II. Jesus Explains Plan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Go to Jerusalem</li> <li>B. Suffer many things from chief priests and elders and scribes</li> <li>C. Be killed</li> <li>D. Be raised the 3<sup>rd</sup> day</li> </ol> <p>III. Peter Rebukes Jesus</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Jesus had been speaking plainly</li> </ol>	<p>They HAD to know who He really was, because for the Very First Time, Jesus now has to tell them something that is going to be hard for them to understand. Matthew 16:21 What would make Peter take Jesus</p>

B. "God forbid it!"

C. "This shall never happen to you!"

IV. Jesus Rebukes Peter's Ideas as from Satan

A. He sees his disciples following

B. "Get behind me Satan!"

C. "You are a stumbling block to me!"

D. "You are not setting your mind on

aside and say those things? Maybe he thought it was bad PR for the Messiah to talk that way. Maybe he didn't want Jesus to "be so negative." Peter's idea of the Messiah was that the Messiah couldn't "lose"; couldn't be "defeated" by being killed. And as long as Jesus had Peter, Peter was going to make sure that Jesus was going to be successful in His Messiah role!

But wait a minute. Peter has gotten the victory part right, but he doesn't understand the "sacrifice for the sins of the world" part. And as Jesus hears these words, listen to how it sounds, "We can do it! You are the Son of God. You don't need to go to the cross." Jesus looks and sees all his disciples following Him. "We can do it! You are the Son of God. You don't need to go to the cross." Where has he

God's interests but man's."

heard that before?  
"If you are the Son of God, prove it...I will give you all the kingdoms of the world....You don't need to go to the cross." At the temptation with Satan. And here is the same voice. And Jesus knows that the temptation he is feeling is coming from Satan through the mouth of a close friend. And he rebukes Peter.  
Read Matt. 16:23.

### **Concluding the Story:**

There is a saying I heard that if you want to keep your car safe from thieves, you have to lock all four doors. When I started really following God when I was in middle school, I was careful to watch what friends I had as my close friends. I had tasted the temptations that the wrong kind of friends could bring. But the door I didn't lock was the temptations that come through Christian friends. Think about it though: if you spend most of your time with friends who profess to be Christians, then most of your temptations will come when you are with Christian friends. (share example from college/career days).

When we hear something from a friend that we trust, and we realize "This isn't right" we have to be willing to identify who it is that is really tempting us: "You are a stumbling block to me. Get behind me Satan" and leave the temptation. "Lock de door. Keep out de Devil!" Really needs to be: "Lock de doors. Keep out de Devil!" That fourth door is when Satan comes to us through our close Christian friends.