



**Mustard Seed Children's Summary for July 27, 2008**  
**Released on Wednesday, July 23, 2008**

**"Jesus Is the Messiah"**

**MEMORY VERSE:**

"Whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:15-16)

**SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT:** (Matthew 16:13-23)

**13** When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

**14** And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

**15** He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

**16** And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

**17** And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

**18** And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

**19** And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

**20** Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.

**21** From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

**22** Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

**23** But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

**OBJECT IN VIEW:**

Teach that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God.

**TRUTHS TO STRESS:**

1. Although people worship many things, there is only one true God.
2. Jesus is the Messiah that God promised to send to save us from sin.
3. We should speak up as Peter did and tell others that Jesus is the Saviour from sin.

**PLANNING LESSON AIDS:**

For Lesson Background/Beginning the Lesson, bring a picture(s) of idol(s) that people may worship or may have worshiped in the past. A picture of the pagan god Pan (half man and half goat) could especially be relevant since this was one of the gods worshiped in Caesarea Philippi (where this week's lesson takes place) and the god who the city was originally named for.

For Telling the Lesson, bring a completed craft from Helping to Remember.

For Helping to Remember, cut one 4-by-12-inch strip of yellow card stock or heavy paper for each student. You will need scissors (safety versions for younger students), markers, pieces of brightly colored paper, glue, and transparent tape. You will also need a copy of the word search for each student.

**LESSON BACKGROUND / BEGINNING THE LESSON:**

Time: A.D. 29

Place: area near Caesarea Philippi

This week's lesson takes place about two or more years into Jesus' public ministry. Jesus' public ministry had been filled with miracles and teachings that had led to much speculation about who He was. His fame had spread throughout the region, and many people followed him and had various opinions about His identity.

The Jewish world of Jesus' day was looking for its Messiah. Messianic expectations were high, and many would-be Messiahs rose up, but these movements were kept at bay by the Roman government. It was into this atmosphere that Jesus came teaching with authority, healing miraculously, and casting out demons. His work was the work of Messiah, but many were not able to see Him as more than a prophet (Matthew 16:14).

When Jesus lived on earth, people worshiped many things. (Show pictures of idols.) Some worshiped the sun. Others worshiped idols made of gold, bronze, stone, or wood. In the area of Caesarea Philippi, where this week's lesson takes place, people worshiped a god named Pan, who was thought to be half man and half goat. The city was originally named Pnias in honor of the god Pan and later renamed in honor of Caesar Augustus and Herod Philip (who enlarged it).

Although people worship many different things and even call them "gods", there is only one true God. When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, God promised to send the Messiah to redeem and save people from their sin. Jesus Christ is this promised Messiah, and this week's lesson focuses on recognizing this fact and being able to tell others who Jesus really is.

**TEACHER'S NOTES / TELLING THE LESSON:**

Consider the following as you prepare your lesson for your students:

After more than two years into His ministry, Jesus and His disciples "came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi" (Matthew 16:13). A brief review of the history of this area will reveal that this was a place of religious significance. Caesarea Philippi was a place known for ancient idol worship and had temples built to many pagan gods (including Pan, Baal, Caesar

and many more). Paganism and idol worship abounded in this place, and it was on one of the roads to this city, no doubt with many of the temples of these pagan gods as a backdrop, that Jesus asked His disciples who He was!

During the years they had been with Jesus, the disciples had listened to Him teach with power and watched Him heal the sick and raise dead people to life again. People everywhere were talking about Jesus. Jesus knew what people were saying, but He asked His disciples two questions.

“Who do people say that I am?” Jesus asked first.

Everyone knew that Jesus was not an ordinary man. He was very special. Some thought He was John the Baptist come back to life. Others said that Jesus was one of the prophets who was alive again (Matthew 16:14) – possibly Elijah (Elias) or Jeremiah (Jeremias).

Jesus asked His disciples a second question: “Who do you say I am?”

Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Peter and the other disciples had followed Jesus over two years, day after day listening to His teaching and observing His miraculous power. In this place of false gods, Peter confessed by revelation from God that Jesus was the Messiah.

Peter’s answer was very important. Jesus was not just a special man. He was not just a good prophet. The disciples were at a place where many gods were worshiped, but Jesus was not just one of those many gods. Jesus was the Messiah, and the “rock” of this truth to which Peter confessed would be what Jesus built His church upon. The truth to Jesus’ identity is the foundation on which the church is built.

Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah. He is the One God promised to send to be the Saviour of all people from sin. For over a thousand years the Jews had been looking for the Messiah. They thought He would be their King. (Use your crown – the completed craft from Helping to Remember (below)– as a visual at this point in the lesson). Jesus is the Son of the living God. He is the Saviour of the world.

Everyone who by faith confesses that Jesus is the Christ will be forgiven of his or her sin. Jesus will build His church of believers. Nothing can stop Him – not even the gates of hell (Matthew 16:18).

Since the disciples knew who He really was, Jesus began to tell them that He would not be King over Israel at that time. Instead, the religious leaders would do whatever they could to destroy Him – they would kill Him. But after three days, Jesus would rise again from the dead.

Peter did not want to hear that Jesus would die. His reaction was not words of faith (as when he had confessed that Jesus was the Christ). This time Peter insisted that what Jesus had said would not happen. Jesus then corrected Peter because he was thinking from a human point of view, not God’s. Jesus’ death and the cross were essential parts of God’s plan.

### **TELLING HOW TO LIVE:**

People of Jesus’ day were speculating about His true identity, and the same thing is going on today. Just like the people then, some today still think of Jesus as only a prophet or a good teacher. But as believers in Christ, we need to boldly proclaim as Peter did, that he is the Christ, the Messiah, and the Saviour of the World.

The revelation of Jesus as Christ to His disciples was a milestone in His ministry. Jesus was many things and people had many different opinions about who He was. He was a teacher, a healer, and an exemplary servant. But most importantly, He was the Christ! And as believers, we should proclaim this truth and pray that God brings understanding and faith to those who do not yet believe (Matthew 16:17).

**HELPING TO REMEMBER:**

Instruct each student to write "Jesus Is the Messiah" across the bottom of their yellow strip. Then cut jewel shapes from the colored papers and glue to the front of the crown. Adjust the crown to fit each child's head and secure with tape.

A word search with key words from the lesson is also included at the end of this lesson summary.

**EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:**

"Whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:15-16)

Jesus asked the disciples who they thought He was. They had lived and traveled with Him for more than two years. Now He wanted them to make a decision and commitment. Who did they think that He was?

Peter spoke up. He knew Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of the only true, living God. Peter had become the informal leader of the group and had no problem speaking up. But Peter's confession came as a revelation from God the Father – not from any human reason or intuition.

**ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:**

Next week's lesson is "Obey God's Word" and begins a study in the book of James focusing on conforming our lives to reflect the Savior's image. Read James 1:17-27.

**Lesson Summarized by:**

Renee Little  
Jesus Is All Ministries  
[www.jesusisall.com](http://www.jesusisall.com)

WORD SEARCH  
Jesus Is the Messiah  
(Matthew 16:13-23)

Answer the following and then find the answers in the word search below:

- 1 The original twelve followers of Jesus. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 One who speaks a message from God to the people. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 The disciple who said that Jesus was "the Christ". \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Another name for Messiah. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Who Jesus said had revealed to Peter who He was. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 What Jesus said that He would build upon a rock. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 What Jesus said He would give to Peter. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Whatever was bind or loosed on earth would also be done in this place. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 The day that Jesus said He would be raised again. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 The evil enemy of God and man. \_\_\_\_\_

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**WORD LIST AND SOLUTION TO WORD SEARCH**  
**(Jesus Is the Messiah, Matthew 16:13-23)**

- |               |            |            |            |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1 - DISCIPLES | 4 - CHRIST | 7 - KEYS   | 10 - SATAN |
| 2- PROPHET    | 5 - FATHER | 8 - HEAVEN |            |
| 3 - PETER     | 6 - CHURCH | 9 - THIRD  |            |

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