

Series: The Common Twelve  
Passage: Matthew 16:13-20  
Sunday: March 9, 2025

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**\*This year, our Lent series will be focused on individual disciples. We hope to learn from their interactions with Jesus!\***

**Focus Disciple: Peter**  
**Matthew 16:13-20 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

<sup>14</sup> They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

<sup>15</sup> "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

<sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." <sup>20</sup> Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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1. Other than the passage above, list other instances in scripture where we see Peter? What is significant about those you listed?

2. If you were asked, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?", how would you respond? What would you say? What would your body language translate?

3. What is the significance of Simon Peter answering Jesus' question impulsively?

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4. What moved Jesus to name Simon, "Peter"? Or in other words, what did Jesus see in Peter? Research the definitions of Simon and Peter and compare.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Would you be considered a leader? When are you most like Peter?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What does "the keys of the kingdom of heaven" symbolize?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Why did Jesus order His disciples to not tell anyone that he was the Messiah? If the disciples told everyone about Jesus being the Messiah, how would that distort Jesus' death and resurrection story?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Bonus Question: If Jesus gave you a new name, what would it be and why?