

Children and family talk for 23rd August 2020 week 22.

Hello everybody! Welcome to the children and family worship.
Let's begin by talking to God:

*Dear God,
as we come together here today,
build us together as your Church,
one family, together in this place.
Amen.*

Our Bible reading today is from **Matthew 16.13-20**

When people heard the stories about Jesus, they couldn't believe that he was just an ordinary man. They thought he was a prophet, like their Old Testament heroes.

Arriving in Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asked his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And his followers had a list: 'Some say Elijah, or Jeremiah, or another of the prophets.' They even included some more recent heroes: 'Some say you are John the Baptist.'

Jesus asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?'

Simon Peter said, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'

Now, the Messiah was someone that the Jews had been waiting for: a person God would send to rescue them from their enemies. 'You are blessed, Simon,' Jesus said, 'because God, my Father in heaven, has given you this answer. From now on you will be known as Peter.' Jesus gave him this name because it means 'rock'.

'On this rock,' Jesus continued, 'I will build my Church, and even hell will not defeat it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you say is allowed on earth, will be allowed in heaven.' Then Jesus warned his disciples, 'Do not tell anyone that I am the Messiah.'

Let's praise God now as we sing:

I the Lord of Sea and Sky

I the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry;
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.

I will speak My word to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard You calling in the
night.

I will go Lord, if You lead me;
I will hold Your people in my
heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain;
I have wept for love of them –
they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone;
I will speak My word to them.
Whom shall I send?

Chorus

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them –
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts are satisfied;
I will give My life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Chorus

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Let's look at the story together:

Let's begin by looking at Caesarea Philippi. Who might have built it and why?

There was a spring there * that was/is the source of the River Jordan. The Ancient Greeks worshipped their god Pan there *. The nearby road was used by conquering armies *. King Herod the Great built a temple there * and then his son, King Philip, built this city. To keep in with the ruling Roman emperor *, Augustus, Philip called it Caesarea, but it became customary to give it his name too – so it became Caesarea Philippi. The Roman cult of the emperor, which gave the emperor divine status, meant that a place named Caesarea took on a kind of religious status.

And just outside this place, this city, Jesus turns to his disciples and asks, in effect, 'What are people saying about me?'

Different people had different views on who Jesus was, many had seen him perform miracles, heal people and teach people with great authority. But Simon gets it right, Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus gives Simon a new name, Peter, which means Rock, because he will be the firm foundation that the church will be built on. Jesus was pleased that his disciples had started to recognise who he was, and now he could start to build the church, the people who would begin the Christian community and spread the good news about God's kingdom.

Praying together

Jesus told his disciples not to tell anyone he was the Messiah. We go out now, hearts so full of amazement and joy, that we can't help but share the good news. Go with us, good Lord, and help us to tell everyone who will listen. Amen.

God's blessing song

May God's Blessing be upon you now
May you know of his great love for you
May God's blessing be upon you now
Right where you are
(Repeat)

Don't forget to join in the Sundayclub zoom session at 11.15am on Sunday, just ask Sandy for the link. Tel: 07511950633

The children's sheet from Roots:

<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/20744/23-aug-2020-childrens-sheet.pdf>