

LIVING A LIFE OF MEANING AND PURPOSE

Matthew 16:13-19: In Jesus's response to Peter, He answers two big questions: *Who am I?* and *What am I doing here?*

Jesus begins His public ministry by quoting the Old Testament prophet Isaiah, proclaiming: "I have come to set captives free." Our broken, twisted identity is our greatest captivity, and Jesus intends to set us free from it—to release us into our true name.

Question: Read aloud Matthew 16:13-19.

- In this part of Peter's story, how is Jesus helping him find freedom from the captivity of his broken identity, and discover the truth about himself?

Experience: During the quiet, notice everything you can about one other person in your Trio. Sherlock Holmes solved crimes by paying ridiculous attention to details in other people. Let's do the same—pay ridiculous attention to one other person in your Trio. As you notice things, write down some predictions about who they are and what they're like. Don't be timid about it!

QUESTIONS:

- What was this experience like for you?
- How did it feel to be studied the way you were?
- And what did it feel like to hear someone make an accurate prediction about you because of something they saw?

In Isaiah 43:1 God says: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!"

Prayer Activity: In the quiet, ask Jesus: "Who do you say that I am?" Write what you hear on your notecard. You won't have to share what you write. Listen, then write what you sense from Him.

Matthew 16:13-17 – Simon Names Jesus, Jesus Names Simon

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

¹⁴ "Well," they replied, "some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."

¹⁵ Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?"

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ Jesus replied, "You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. ¹⁸ Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven."