



Gospel Life Communities Study Guide

Matthew 16:13-20

The Unstoppable Building Program

From now until the end of June, we will be in Matthew 16-20 in a series called “Schooled By Jesus”. In these chapters, you will see Jesus speak to groups and individuals, and you may be surprised to see his tone. Jesus doesn’t look for ‘middle ground’ nor does he seek to resolve tension that can build in these situations. He is the Teacher of teachers, and when Jesus is teaching, we should all be ready to be schooled.

Our weekly studies will have four parts, following the four categories that we’ve set for GLC’s, and then end with prayer.

exploring

we will explore God’s word together, looking at the actual words of the passage.

digging

we will dig deeper into the word, discussing the context and meaning of the text.

growing

we will discuss how the passage is applied to our own lives.

going

we will discuss how the passage informs, challenges, and encourages our witness.



exploring

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” 14 And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 17 And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” 20 Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Matthew 16:13–20.

1. Read Matthew 16:13-20 as a group.
2. After reading it together, what questions about this passage come to mind?

digging

3. Read Daniel 7:13-14. As a group, using your own words, describe the “Son of Man”.
4. Read Acts 10:1-11:18 together as a group. What parts of that passage are a fulfillment of the passage we are studying (Matthew 16:13-20)?
5. Why would Jesus charge his “disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ”? Read Mark 1:43-45 together for a hint.

growing

6. The big idea of the sermon was “Jesus Christ is building his church and nothing can stop him.” When you think about how the gospel has and continues to spread around the globe, you can see that this statement is true. However, there are times and places where the gospel doesn’t have great success. How can this be? How should we understand this?

going

7. At the end of the sermon, we were encouraged to do four things: Be joyful, be courageous, pray for the persecuted, and to let our lives be consistent with our worship. Which of these four things do you struggle with the most?

