



## Gospel Life Communities Study Guide

Matthew 16:21-17:13

Recognizing Jesus

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**

21 From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." 23 But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? 27 For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. 28 Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

17 And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. 2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. 3 And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. 4 And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." 5 He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." 6 When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. 7 But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." 8 And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

9 And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead." 10 And the disciples asked him, "Then why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?" 11 He answered, "Elijah does come, and he will restore all things. 12 But I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man will certainly suffer at their hands." 13 Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.

Mt 16:21–17:14.

1. Read Matthew 16:21-17:13 as a group. Take note of who says what.



**digging**

2. Why are Jesus' words to Peter so shocking? (Read 16:13-20 for more context)
3. Read Exodus 34:1-9 and 29-34. What similarities and differences do you see between the Mt. Sinai event and the Mount of Transfiguration event?
4. In 17:7 Jesus tells Peter, John, and James to "Rise and have no fear." How is this different from the Mt. Sinai event in Exodus 19:9-16? What does this tell us about God's grace to us through Jesus?

**growing**

5. Peter speaks out of turn twice in this passage (16:22 and 17:4), inserting his incorrect ideas of the kingdom. We are all prone to this in one way or another. Discuss ways that we do this in our lives.

**going**

6. Jesus says "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul?" As we go into the world, how does this verse affect your heart for evangelism?

