

Sunday, August 23, 2020

Bible Story: Matthew 16:13-20

Bible Verse: Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the Lord:
Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you
were hewn.
Isaiah 51:1

In the Bible story, as Jesus walks with his disciples, he asks them, “Who do people say the Son of Man is? Who is Jesus referring to when he says, the “Son of Man?” Why do you think Jesus asks this question? Do you think the people who are listening to Jesus, who have seen him heal the sick and feed thousands of people with a few loaves and fishes, can understand that Jesus is the Son of God? Do you think that would be hard to understand?

What answers do the disciples give Jesus? Do you remember any stories about John the Baptist, or Elijah or Jeremiah or the other prophets? Remember that you have been reading from the Old Testament about the prophets. Prophets can have a tough time because they are trying to tell the kings to remember the teachings of God. Elijah was a prophet, hiding from the king, Ahab. Elijah was not sure what he was going to do when he heard the voice of God in the wind, telling him to have courage and to continue to preach God’s word.
Does it make sense that people think that Jesus is a prophet?

Then Jesus asks his disciples, “Who do you say I am.”

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

By this answer, Jesus realizes that Simon Peter has faith and that he will share that faith with others. Jesus says, “You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church.”

When he gives Peter his new name, do you think that Jesus had remembered about the words from Isaiah when he describes Peter as the rock on which to build his church?

Do you remember other people who have had their names changed after encountering God? Remember Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 17:15-16), Jacob (Genesis 32:28), and Paul (Acts 13:9).

Activity

1. Do you think rocks make good building materials?
Would blocks or legos make good building materials? Name some things that would make good building materials.
Would paper or sand make good building materials? Name some things that would not be good building materials.
If you can, test your hypothesis about building materials to see if you can build something as tall as you are.

CTS Sunday School Calendar – 2019-2020

2. Sometimes people make markers from stones. A cairn, from the Scottish Gaelic word: càrn, is a man-made mound of rough stones built as a memorial or landmark, typically on a hilltop or skyline. Cairns can be very elaborate or very simple. Collect some stones from around your house and build a simple cairn in a place you like to go and relax and think.



3. Since rocks are very durable and strong, people often put designs on them to provide strength. Here are some examples.

Rocks with scripture messages.



Rocks for cancer survivors.



Now it is your turn. Find a rock you can use, get some paint or markers, and be creative. You can be inspirational . . . or just have fun . . .

