



## **THE SABBATH CIRCLES** **HOME SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

*Unit Theme: Illumination of mind and heart*

*Lesson connected to Sunday, March 1, 2020*

*Today's Scripture: Matthew 16:13-20*

*Key Verse: "[Jesus] said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?'" Matthew 16:15*

### *Contexts of the Scripture:*

- In the timeline of Jesus' ministry as Matthew portrays it, this event comes after Jesus and the disciples had been together for some time. Thus, the disciples had heard the "sermon on the mount" (Matthew 5-7) and witnessed many miracles at the hands of Jesus including the healing of numerous people and the feeding of the 5000.
- Expectations were high that the much anticipated Messiah of the Jewish people would be coming soon. This was an expectation that had evolved over a long period of time. Originally "messiah" only meant "anointed one" and referred to the king or any local leader deemed to have God's favor in leading the people. The expectation of a messiah in a future sense as one who would rescue the people from domination by their conquerors came much later in the development of Jewish faith and practice.
- The Messiah concept was then appropriated by Christians who assigned that role of the divinely appointed rescuer to Jesus. Judaism does not recognize Jesus as the Messiah and thus they are still waiting for the Messiah's appearance.
- "Son of Man" is a term Jesus uses to make clear that despite all of the miracles he has performed, he is still human. He is the one in whom "Son of Man" and "Son of God" become one being.

### *Questions to go deeper:*

- What is Jesus' first question to the disciples? How do they answer?
- Jesus then immediately asks them who they think he is. From the text, it appears as though Peter ("Simon Peter") answers without hesitation. What is his answer? How does Jesus react to it?
- If you were one of the other disciples witnessing this exchange between Jesus and Peter, how might you have reacted?
- What do you think it might mean that Jesus promised to give Peter the "keys to the kingdom?" This promise of Jesus to Peter – that Peter will be the one to build Jesus future church – appears only in Matthew and not in the other Gospels. What could that mean? Does it matter?

### *Activity possibilities:*

See other side

- **Family activities:**

- Where would this fall on the bible timeline? Hint: Check out the context info above!
- Go to Google Images and google “Jesus.” Scroll through all the images. Is there one you like better than the others? Why? Does everyone in your family like the same image? Does it matter?
- Look around your home. Are there any pictures or images of Jesus anywhere? If yes, where did they come from? What does Jesus look like in them? If no, talk as a family about why there aren’t any images of Jesus. How would you feel about finding one as a family to have at home?

- **Younger children activities:**

- Check out this link to find a coloring picture of Jesus:  
<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/73/f6/00/73f600d30ed27a39b80c14b2b0of712d.jpg>

- **Older children and youth activities:**

- Work through the other activities explained above.
- Check out this famous drawing of Jesus called “Christ of the Breadline”



Do you like this image of Jesus? Why or why not?

- If you were to create a drawing of where you’d like to find Jesus, where would it be? Give creating the drawing a try!!!

Remember, Rev. Ruth is always happy to answer your questions and help you find more information on anything in the Bible that interests you! Catch up with her through the church or come to the Savoy Bookstore and Café any Thursday afternoon between 2-4pm.