



# February 18 – 24

Saints and Sinners | The Church Built on the Rock

**Icebreaker:** If you were to ask people in Chester County about their opinion of Jesus, what would they say?

## Read Matthew 16:13–14

- Why would Jesus ask the disciples who the people think he is?
- Why would people have said John the Baptist? (see Matthew 14 about John the Baptist)
- Why would people have said Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets? (see Malachi 4:5)
- What is missing in these views of the people?
- Why is the answer to this question still so important in our day?
- Why do people today reject Jesus as fully God, our Savior and Lord?

## Read Matthew 16:15–18

- Why would Jesus ask the disciples who they think he is? Why is the answer to this question of much greater importance?
- What are the important elements of Peter's answer?
- Read Isaiah 9:6, Jeremiah 23:5–6, and Micah 5:2. What do we learn about the Messiah in those passages?
- Why did Peter get the answer right when the Jewish people did not? What does this tell us about what is necessary for people to know the real Jesus today?
- Jesus had already given Simon a second name (John 1:41–42). The Greek word for rock is used twice in this sentence. The first, *petros*, is masculine, can be used as a proper name, and generally refers to a small stone by itself. The second, *petra*, is a visible jagged rock extending from bedrock to the surface.
  - It is possible that Jesus intentionally differentiates between Peter, the person, and the rock on which the church is built. In what sense would Peter be a small rock?
  - What might be the larger rock upon which the church is built? How would this be contrary to Roman Catholic doctrine? (See also Ephesians 2:20 and 1 Corinthians 3:11 to understand what the church is built upon)
- Read 1 Peter 5:1–3 and 1 Peter 2:9. What does this teach us about Peter and the church?
- Where does ultimate authority lie in the building of Jesus' church? (*Church, ekklesia, is the Greek word, translated from Hebrew, that refers to the people of God.*)
- What is our role in building the church?
- What assures the continued building of the church? Why is this so important in our day when the cultural impact of the church in the U.S. seems to be waning?