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# Matthew Chapter 16

## ☐ 1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

- a. Do you ever worry about what other people think of you? Do you know other people how worry about what others think of them? Do you think this is a common human issue? Why/why not? Give as many details as you can.

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- b. Talk about how your view of Jesus has changed as you've grown older. Start with your earliest memory of Jesus and what you thought about Him as a small child and how your understanding has grown over time.

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## ☐ 2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

In this chapter Jesus is working on clarifying His identity with the people around Him—including His disciples. Jesus starts out by asking His disciples who “the people” think He is. Jesus wasn’t asking what other people thought of Him because He was insecure or worried like so many of us are today. It seems more like He was trying to get a clear message through to His disciples so that they could help clear up other people’s misconceptions—that’s why He went on to ask His disciples, “But who do you say I am? (vs. 15).”

When Peter answered correctly Jesus praised him highly and made an awesome pronouncement of Peter’s future role in Jesus’ mission to plant the Christian church. But then just a few verses after that (vs. 23) Peter says the wrong thing and Jesus looks at him and says, “Get away from me, Satan!”

Do you think Peter felt confused or embarrassed by the fact that he could say the right thing one minute and then wrong thing the next—from one extreme to another? Do you think he just got lucky with his answer the first time? How do you think Peter could be so right and then be so wrong?

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Have you ever done something like Peter did in a class or with your friends? Explain. How did it make you feel? One obvious point here is that it’s okay to mess up—we all do—but just like Peter we should pick ourselves up and keep moving forward. Peter ended up being an amazing disciple who later gave his life for Jesus and His mission!

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### 3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

Think about what role you would like to play in Jesus' mission to save the people of planet earth. Have a discussion with your youth leader, Pathfinder leaders, parents or pastor about the various roles young people can play in the church today. Identify at least one way you would like to experiment to find out what talents God has given you for His cause. These ways may include but are not limited to: junior deacon/deaconess, help teach Sabbath School, read Scripture or have special music or children's story for church, help with a humanitarian outreach project (hopefully you are already done this as a part of previous outreach ideas in this guide), or maybe become a TLT in your Pathfinder club.

### 4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

Spend some time praying about this chapter's application and what new role you may be able to play at church. Ask Jesus to help you to hear His voice and calling clearly.