

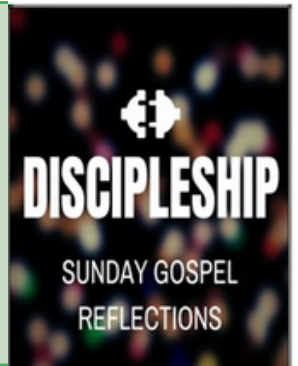
In preparation for August 23, 2026:

Twenty-First Sunday In Ordinary Time

Theme - The answer that can change everything!

Verse for reflection: Jesus asked, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Matthew 16:13-20 (Verses 15-16)



Adults -

1. Peter's declaration, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God," expresses the central confession of the Christian faith. What does it mean to you that Jesus is the Messiah? Does recognizing Jesus as the Son of the living God influence the way you live? Why or why not?
2. Does Peter's confession teach you anything about genuine faith? How can you deepen your knowledge of Jesus beyond what others say about Him?
3. Do you believe that your faith can strengthen and encourage others? Why or why not?

Obstacles for living out the Gospel: Relying on human understanding instead of God's wisdom, fear, doubt.

Teens -

1. This Gospel centers on the most important question Jesus asks not just Peter, but every one of us: "Who do you say that I am?" This challenges each of us to move beyond knowing about Jesus and to decide who He truly is in our own lives. When you talk about Jesus with others how do you describe Him- do you feel comfortable telling others that Jesus is your Lord and Savior?
2. If someone who had never met you asked your friends who you are, what would they say about you? If someone watched your life for a week, would they know Jesus is important to you?
3. Whose opinion has the most influence over how you see yourself? What would change if Jesus' opinion mattered more than everyone else's?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: Fear of what others will think if you openly live out your faith in Jesus.

Children -

1. How would you answer Jesus' question: Who do you say that I am? What do you think helped Peter realize that Jesus is the Son of God?
2. Why do you think it is more important to know Jesus as the Son of God and as a personal friend than to just know only facts about him?
3. Peter was not perfect, he made mistakes. Yet, Jesus told Peter that he is the rock on which he will build his church. What quality of Peter do you think Jesus saw that made him do this? What gifts do you have that will help build the Church Jesus wants?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: Not really thinking about who Jesus is and what he asks of us as his disciples.