



Rooted

South Sub Church

October 12, 2025

Identity in Christ: The Big Reveal

Matthew 16:13-20 (NLT)

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴“Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.” ¹⁵Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. ¹⁸Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. ¹⁹And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.” ²⁰Then he sternly warned the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Sermon Summary:

Rooted is a 10-week journey through the life of the Apostle Peter, following his story as he learns to walk with Jesus. Each week, we’ll step into a defining moment of Peter’s life—his failures, his victories, his doubts, and his bold faith—and discover how God uses ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things. *Rooted* will help you grow deeper in faith, find strength in trials, and embrace the life God has called you to live. Whether you’re brand new to faith or have been walking with Christ for years, this series will ground you in truth and inspire you to live boldly for Jesus.

Ice Breaker Questions:

1. What are some common ideas people around you have about who Jesus is today?
2. Who in your life has helped you understand who Jesus really is, and how did they influence you?
3. Can you think of a time when you realized something important about God that you didn’t understand before?
4. Have you ever been misunderstood for what you believe about Jesus? What happened?

Scripture Study Questions:

1. What specific question did Jesus ask His disciples in verse 13?
2. How did the disciples respond to Jesus’ question about who people said He was?
3. What different opinions did people have about Jesus according to verse 14?
4. What follow-up question did Jesus ask directly to His disciples in verse 15?
5. Who answered Jesus’ question, and what did he say?

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6. How did Jesus respond to Peter's confession in verse 17?
7. According to Jesus, who revealed this truth to Peter?
8. What name did Jesus use to refer to Simon in verse 18, and what does it mean?
9. What did Jesus say He would build upon "this rock"?
10. What did Jesus promise about the "gates of Hades"?
11. What authority did Jesus say He would give to Peter in verse 19?

Interpretive Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus asked His disciples what others were saying about Him before asking who they believed He was?
2. What does Peter's confession, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God," reveal about his understanding of Jesus' identity and mission?
3. When Jesus says, "Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you," what does this suggest about the source of true spiritual understanding?
4. What is the significance of Jesus renaming Simon as "Peter," and how does this relate to Jesus' statement about building His church on "this rock"?
5. How should we understand the promise that "the gates of Hades will not prevail against" the church?

Application Questions:

1. Who do *you* say Jesus is, and how does your confession of faith influence the way you live each day?
2. How can you grow in recognizing truths that come from God's revelation rather than from human opinion or culture?
3. In what ways can your faith become a "rock" that strengthens others in your church community?
4. How can you participate in Jesus' ongoing work of building His church?
5. What are some "gates of Hades" (forces of evil or opposition) that threaten believers today, and how can you stand firm against them?