

Small Groups Activites

1. Who Do You Say I Am?

What You Need: Bible marked at Matthew 16, “Who Do You Say I Am?” Activity Pages, scissors, glue sticks, crayons

What You Do:

- Give each child a “Who Do You Say I Am?” Activity Page.
- Invite a volunteer to open the Bible to Matthew 16.
- Guide kids to point to the first panel of the comic strip.
- Invite a volunteer to read the first question Jesus asked His disciples.
- Instruct kids to read the speech bubbles at the bottom of the page.
- Lead them to cut out the bubbles.
- Help kids glue the bubbles in sequence, referring to the numbers on the bubbles if needed.
- Provide as much help as necessary.
- When everyone finishes, “read” the story together.
- Kids can color the comic strip as time allows.

What You Say:

“Jesus asked His disciples the most important question anyone could ever ask! Do you remember what He asked? *(Pause.)* Yes! He asked them: *Who do you say I am? (Matthew 15:16 NIV)* What did Peter say? *(Pause.)* Yes! Peter said, ‘You’re God’s Son!’

“Some of you may know and believe that Jesus is the Savior and that He’s God’s Son, and some of you may have questions about Who He is. That’s okay. No matter what you think about Jesus, you can talk with others about what you believe.

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time you talked with someone about God. Tell how it helped you know Him more.)

“So, this week, find someone who loves Jesus and talk to them about what you believe. Ask questions and talk about things you don’t understand. Because the more you talk about God, the more it helps you understand Who He is and how much He loves you. So, remember: ***[Bottom Line] you can TALK (cup your hands around your mouth, guiding kids to do what you do) with others about what you believe.***”

2. Prayer

What You Need: Index cards; markers

What You Do:

- Hand out index cards.
- Ask kids to think of someone they can talk with about what they believe.
- Set out the markers, and guide kids to write that person's name or draw a picture of that person on their index card.
- If time allows, invite kids to share their ideas.

What You Say:

"When you believe that Jesus really is God's Son, that He's alive, and that He died to save you from your sin, God forgives you. He erases your sin like it never happened. And when He does, you can have a close relationship with Him. You also have His promise that you'll live with Him forever! WOW!

[Make It Personal] (Briefly tell kids how you came to believe that Jesus is God's Son, how you asked Him to forgive your sin, and how you chose to follow Him. Tell them how following Jesus has made a difference in your life.)

[Bottom Line] "You can TALK with others about what you believe, too. You may not understand everything now, and that's okay. But if you'd like to talk with someone about what it means to believe in Jesus and follow Him, you can talk with me or someone you know who follows Jesus.

"But no matter what, always remember that God loves you more than you can imagine, and He wants to have a VERY special relationship with you! Let's pray."

(Lead kids in prayer, thanking God for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Ask God to help the kids—and you—know Him more.)

Connection Time

Use the following questions to keep the conversation going and to keep kids thinking about what they're learning!

- Can you talk with a snail about what you believe? *(Nooo!)* Can you talk with a mom about what you believe? *(Yes!)* Can you talk with a rock about what you believe? *(No!)* Can you talk with a grandparent about what you believe? *(Yes!)* Can you talk with a monkey about what you believe? *(No!)*
- Who do YOU say Jesus is? *(He's really nice; He's kind; He's God's Son; He's my Savior!)*
- Say: ***[Bottom Line]*** You can TALK) with others about what you believe!

Peter Says That Jesus Is the Messiah

Bible Story: Peter Says That Jesus Is the Messiah • *Matthew 16:13-20*

Bottom Line: You can TALK with others about what you believe.

Key Question: What is God doing in your life right now?

Memory Verse: “Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the one who started this journey of faith. And he is the one who completes the journey of faith.” *Hebrews 12:2a (NirV)*

Life App: Faith—Trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

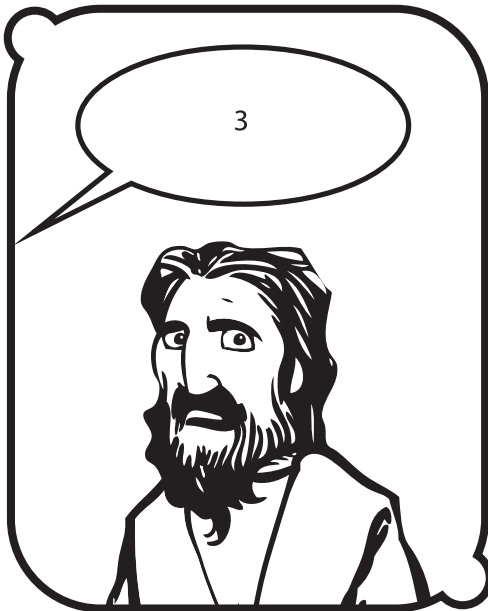
Small Group

Discussion Questions

What You Do:

Ask:

- Is it easy or hard for you to talk to others about your faith? Explain.
- Who can you share with about what God is doing in your life?
- Why is it important to talk about Jesus and what we believe with others who know and love God?
- What things do you talk about most? How can you bring Jesus and your faith into those conversations?
- What are some things that keep us from asking questions or talking with others about the things we believe?



1 John the Baptist	2 Elijah
3 Jeremiah	4 You are the Son of God!

What to Do:
Print one copy for each kid.

Who Do You Say I Am?
VBS, DAY 3, Small Group K-1
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FOCUS

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

YOU CAN
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WITH OTHERS
ABOUT WHAT
YOU BELIEVE

Read Hebrews 10:25.

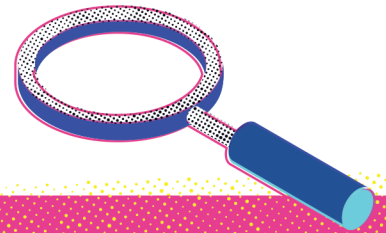
Did you have fun at VBS today? What if you had been the **ONLY** one who showed up? That would be so weird, wouldn't it? What if you'd been the only one playing the super fun games or making the cool craft or singing in worship or discussing today's lesson with your leader?

Everyone knows that friends make things more **FUN**! But did you know that friends can also help you grow in your faith? It's true. When it comes to following

Peter Says That Jesus Is the Messiah •
Matthew 16:13-20

God, He knew that we would need each other. As you participate in small group each week, your faith will grow. You'll learn from the experience of others, pray for each other and worship together. You can **TALK** to others about what you believe.

Can you name some friends who follow God? Do they encourage you and pray for you? As you pray today, thank God for those friends. If you can't think of anyone, ask God to help you talk to your parents about coming back to church so you can find a small group this week!



2-3

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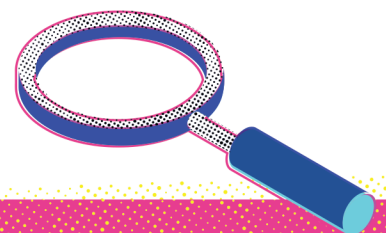
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TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

**WHAT IS GOD
DOING IN YOUR LIFE
RIGHT NOW?**

Read the Bottom Line above. What is the word right after "TALK"? It's "with," right?

There's a big difference in talking TO someone—or especially talking AT someone—versus talking WITH others.

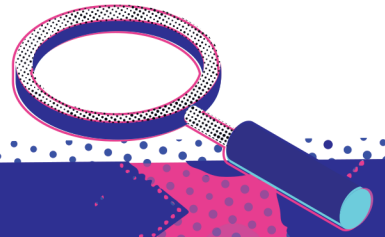
Jesus certainly did both in His lifetime. There were times He talked TO crowds. But when Jesus really wanted to make a point with His friends and to connect with them, He talked WITH them. He asked questions and really focused when they gave Him answers. He

offered up His own answers when they asked Him questions.

In fact, in Matthew 16:13-20, we read about a time when Jesus talked with His disciples about something incredibly important: who they thought He was. And how did He start that conversation? With a question.

Today, find a friend you know who also believes in God, and talk WITH them. Maybe you could even share a snack or go for a walk. As you talk, ask them this question: "What is God doing in your life right now?" Then listen and really focus on what they have to say. Talk with them about what God is doing in your life, too!

Peter Says That Jesus Is the Messiah • Matthew 16:13-20
Bottom Line: You can TALK with others about what you believe.



PRETEEN

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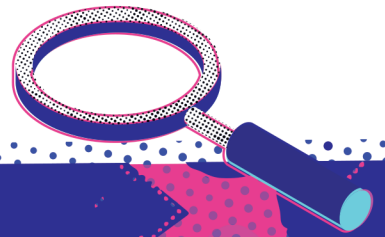
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