

# Back to School

## Theme

The disciples go "back to school" with Jesus.

## Object

School supplies, books, or other school-related objects.

## Scripture

Then he asked them, "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Matthew 16:15-16 (NIV)

It's back to school time again! Some of you are probably feeling excited. Some of you may be a little sad that summer is over. You may feel nervous or a little scared about going back to school because of all the new things that you will have to face. You will have new teachers, some new friends, and some of you may even be going to a new school.

On the first day of school, the teacher will probably ask some questions to see how much you already know. When the teacher asks a question to which you know the answer, you might wave your hand excitedly in the air and say, "I know! I know!" It is a great feeling when you know the answer, isn't it? It sure helps to take away those "Back to School Jitters."

In our Bible lesson today, the disciples are going "back to school." Can you guess who their teacher is? Right! Jesus is their teacher. Jesus often took his disciples aside to teach them important lessons about the Kingdom of God. This was one of those days. Jesus began his lesson that day by asking his disciples a question.

"Who do men say that I am?" Jesus asked.

I imagine that one of the disciples raised his hand and said, "I know! I know! Some people say that you are John the Baptist."

Then another of the disciples raised his hand and said, "I know! I know! Some people say you are Elijah."

A third disciple raised his hand and said, "Some people say that you are Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."

"Very good," Jesus said, "that is what other people are saying, but who do you say that I am?"

You know, I think that Peter was so excited that he forgot to raise his hand. I think he just called out to Jesus, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus said, "You are right, Peter. You didn't learn that from listening to other people. It was taught to you by my Father in heaven."

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The lesson that the disciples learned that day is just as important today as it was then. Many people in our world today still do not know who Jesus is. You and I need to be ready with the answer, "He is the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Dear Father, when people are searching for the answer to the question, "Who is Jesus?" help us to be ready with the answer. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## Group Activities

Sermon Title: "What's My Line?", "Back to School", and "Who Is this Man?"

Scripture Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

### CIRCLE CONFESSION TIME:

Have the children form a circle and take turns confessing something that they KNOW or confessing that they know SOMEONE. As they share their "confession", they will sit and continue until all the children are sitting in a circle to listen to TODAY'S story on Peter's confession.

### CONFESSION GARDEN:

Provide the children with construction paper and bright colored markers and various colors of neon paper to create flowers, grass, and sky. On each flower the children will write a "confession" on the flower petals or on each stem using ideas that the children have shared during their "circle confession time" above.

### IDENTIFICATION:

Blindfold all the children and take turns tapping a child on the shoulder for that child to talk while disguising their voice or to making a sound. The other children will try to IDENTIFY the person who is speaking or making the sound. Let children share together how they can IDENTIFY Jesus to others and share today's story.

### CONFESSION BOOK MARK:

Give the children supplies to make a book mark about today's Bible lesson, using the Bible verse, and other words from today's lesson. Add a ribbon to the book marker and some stickers if desired.

### WORD SCRAMBLE BIBLE VERSE:

Write the words from today's Bible verse (or a portion of the verse) on separate slips of paper and have the children place them in the correct order on a CONFESSION POSTER BOARD.

### POSTER CROSS:

Give each child a large piece of card stock cut out in the shape of a cross (older children can cut out the cross on the traced lines). Have the children write JESUS IS THE CHRIST on the cross and hang the crosses around the classroom as a reminder of their CONFESSION!

### "JESUS IS THE CHRIST" POSTER:

Let children cut out letters for "JESUS IS THE CHRIST" and glue onto a large poster board to hang in their classroom! Around the edges, children can write "Who do YOU say that I am"?

### "WHO DO YOU SAY" TEAM PLAY:

Divide children into two groups and stand across the room from each other. Begin with one team (who will represent Jesus), asking loudly "who do YOU say that I am"? The other team can represent Jesus' disciples, and will answer loudly -- JESUS, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD, etc. Teams can change sides from asking

to the answering side! As children leave the classroom today, have them tell the teacher as they walk out - who THEY say Jesus is!

### "JESUS IS THE CHRIST" PAINTING:

Give the class a LONG piece of rolled out paper to PAINT the saying, "JESUS IS THE CHRIST" and allow them to display it in a focal hallway or in their classroom. After taking turns to paint the large letters, as well as some decorations around the edges, have children write their own names on the painting to show who THEY believe Jesus is!

### ROCK PAINTING:

Give each child a large rock or an even BIGGER rock outside for the entire class to paint. They could paint a large CROSS on the rock and paint JESUS IS THE ROCK, or UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH, or for smaller rocks, they can just paint a cross and JESUS, etc! The larger the rock, the better the art work!

### ROCK CANDY OR POP ROCKS

candy can be given at the end of class, as their snack for the day and ask the children WHO did Jesus call a Rock in our story today!

Song: "The Solid Rock" by William Bradbury

Words and Music (pdf)

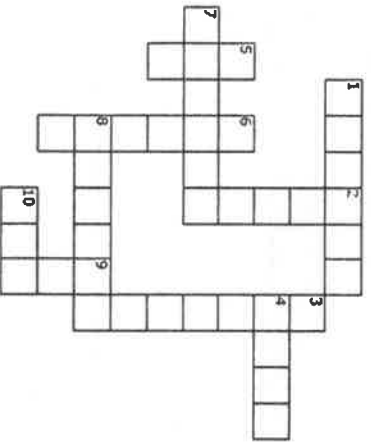
MP3 Accompaniment Track

Song: "Jesus Is My Best Friend" by Cynthia Jordan

Words and Music (pdf)

MP3 Accompaniment Track

# Crossword Puzzle



## ACROSS

- Persons; men, women, and children; human beings
- A large stone that sticks up out of the ground or the sea
- A male parent
- The Messiah, as foretold by the prophets
- An adult male human being

## DOWN

- The name that Jesus called Simon
- A persons who speaks for God
- To speak
- The whole body of believers in Christ
- A male child in relation to his parents

PETER PROPHET	FATHER ROCK	PEOPLE MAN	SON CHURCH	CHRIST SAY
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# Children's Worship Bulletin

*Peter's Confession of Christ*

Matthew 16:13-20

## Word Search Puzzle

I W H Q O X N F C T Z V D L M  
P V V P O E U A Z F U I B O M  
E R Y G V M S T S P S Y D R N  
O X O A R J R H B M E G O O M  
P P E P G E D E L G N T S C S  
L H I I H E E L R B I S P E K E  
E K F R S E E Y I K A V U V R U  
U T E S W I T J J O P I M O W  
M H E Y O E Q S E A A T N P I  
T L C T S A J I Z R H J I G M  
B A H Y P R P J S I E K O S L  
X P R J N T F E J A D M A H T  
I L L I B U H D J L A J P I X N  
J J S Y L L A J G A T E S T A T  
G L T E H U I S A C H U R C H

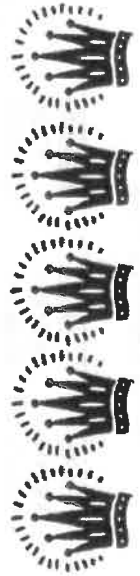
CHRIST BLESSSED LIVING JOHN	EARTH KINGDOM ROCK HEAVEN	SON CHURCH FATHER PETER	PROPHETS GATES HADES KEYS	PEOPLE BAPTIST ELIAH JEREMIAH
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Your Church's Name  
Address  
City, State

# Coloring Page



“But what about you? Who do you say I am?”  
Matthew 16:15



# Decoder Puzzle

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
B	Q	S	T	R	N	P	M	W	Y	L	Z	C	D	H	G	K	E	O	J	F	V	U	I	X	A

- 7-5-19-7-15-18-4-3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 15-18-26-22-18-6 \_\_\_\_\_
- 17-18-10-3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5-19-13-17 \_\_\_\_\_
- 17-24-6-16-14-19-8 \_\_\_\_\_
- 11-24-22-24-6-16 \_\_\_\_\_
- 13-15-5-24-3-4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 13-15-23-5-13-15 \_\_\_\_\_
- 7-18-19-7-11-18 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1-11-18-3-3-18-14 \_\_\_\_\_

ROCK	BLESSED	LIVING	HEAVEN	KINGDOM
PROPHETS	CHURCH	PEOPLE	CHRIST	KEYS

