

**"THE RESET"****SPEAKER: JO SAXTON****DATE: OCT 1, 2022****BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY:****MATTHEW 16:13 – 19**

In Matthew 16, Jesus takes his disciples on a trip to Caesarea Philippi. There he questions them, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” Pressing further, he asks, “Who do you say I am?”

Peter replies with his now famous confession of faith, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus responds, “... this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.”

Digging into this conversation, guest speaker, Jo Saxton, shows us how this is a reset moment where God’s reveals who he is, our identity in him, and the extent to which all that he has is shared with us in Christ is ours. Even better, once we’re “reset,” we are sent to share the good news of God’s Kingdom with others.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

*These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker’s message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.*

**LEAN IN:** *These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. How do you feel about the name you were given and why?
2. What’s one of the most awkward or probing questions you’ve very been asked and how did you respond? There has to be a good story or two there. :-)
3. What’s does your given name or family name mean?  
For example, Sophia means “wisdom.”
4. What stood out to you most in this message?

**LOOK DOWN:** *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what’s been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. How did the disciples answer Jesus’ first question, and why do you think they responded that way?
2. How did Peter answer Jesus’ follow-up question?  
Why is that important?
3. In your mind, what is the significance of v17?
4. What did Jo say about “Peter” and “rock”? How might this shape your understanding of the passage?
5. What does Jesus say he will give the disciples and why?
6. Summarize this story in your own words.

**LOOK OUT:** *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. What is the most messed-up city you can think of and why?  
Now, imagine Jesus in the middle of that place having a conversation like the one in Matthew 16:13-19.  
How might that change how you feel about that city?
2. Where do you see “the gates of Hades” in our culture?
3. What do you think shapes most people’s identity today?
4. Where do you see people searching for authentic identity who need a reset? And, how might a reset help them?
5. Think about celebrity culture and mass media: How do people’s sense of identity shape the world around them in our culture?

**CONTINUED:**

***Look In: These are questions that help you consider how to engage the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.***

1. What has shaped your identity most powerfully and why?
2. What is the most self-clarifying conversation you've ever had with God, through prayer or Bible reading, or...?
3. What has God spoken over you as you think about who he is and how he has described his people in the Bible? Is it hard for you to personally accept descriptions of adoption, love, devotion, and authority in the Bible about God's people? If so, why? If not, why not?
4. How do you see your sense of identity impact how you interact with God's Kingdom? Does who you believe yourself to be help or hinder your role as an agent of the Kingdom, and why?
5. Do you sometimes feel like a little pebble with a rock-like faith, and if so, how is that sense of self helpful or not?

***LIVE IT OUT: These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one prompts and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.***

1. Go through the book of Ephesians and note every statement of identity. Try them on and see how they fit. Pray over them and ask God to tailor his statements of who you are in Christ so you can begin to feel them fit well.
2. Pair up with another Christian and spend some time affirming one another, speaking specific truths about who you are in Christ over each other. Use your Bibles. Go for quality over quantity. Stay humble and honest. Finish by praying for one another.
3. Ask God where you need a reset in order to best manifest his Kingdom in your life and relationships. Lean into how he responds.