

Scripture and Background Information for April 5 – April 11

The Unanswered Questions of Jesus

The accounts of Jesus' life are filled with stories, parables, sayings, sermons, and miracles. They're also filled with questions – not just the questions people asked Jesus. They're filled with questions Jesus asked the people who were deciding whether or not to follow Him. During this series, we'll look at the questions Jesus asks, consider their relevance, and challenge ourselves to find answers to the things about us and within us that Jesus wants to know.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

Since this week is quite long, write out some details that you'll need to retell the story in the **GOD'S WORDS** section. Then in the **MY WORDS** section, retell the story in your own words.

Background for Matthew 16:13-17

One of Matthew's favorite ways to refer to Jesus is the "Son of Man" because of the name's roots in Jewish theology. In Daniel 7, a savior is promised riding on the clouds coming as the Son of Man. Rooted in Jewish theology and history, people could have any reaction to Jesus that recognized that He was something more than just a man. However, it was Peter (Simon Bar-Jonah*) who had just the correct response.

Every week throughout this series, we have looked at questions that Jesus asks his followers or his audience. Each question is more than just a question—it is a call to action or a step to take. Each question is a chance to acknowledge Jesus in a new way, in a deeper way. Each question is an invitation to us to follow Him deeper, better, or closer. How will you respond?

*Simon Bar-Jonah was Peter's name before Jesus gave Him a new name. Simon was a common name during this time and Bar-Jonah simply meant, Son of Jonah.

**In verses 18-20, Jesus confirms that upon confessions of faith in Jesus Christ like Peter's confession the church will be built.

Scriptures for the upcoming weeks:

April 12	TBD
April 19	TBD