



## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Ice Breaker:** What plans are you making to enjoy the rest of winter now that Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow this week?

**Instructions:** If your group meets bi-weekly, answer questions 1, 4 & 5 this week.

1. Read Matthew 16: 13-18 and 16:21-23. Compare and contrast these two interactions between Jesus and Peter. What did Peter get right in the first interaction? What did Peter miss in the second interaction? What does Jesus' strong reaction in both circumstances teach us about His view of truth?
2. Pastor Tom explained that we, like Peter, get Jesus and His purpose and mission for our lives wrong for two reasons. What were those reasons (see notes)? Do these seem like common challenges for people? How have they been challenges in your life?
3. Pastor Tom explained that Peter got Jesus' identity right but got His mission all wrong. Peter believed Jesus was to be a political leader and military liberator. What are some ways that we mistake either Jesus' identity or his mission today?
4. Read Matthew 16:24-26. How is this a different way of life than the disciples expected? What is different about the Christian life than you may have expected when you first said YES? How does embracing the challenges we face in life build in us a rock-solid faith?
5. Pastor Tom quoted Kay Warren's definition of joy, which is described as, "the settled assurance that God is in control of every detail in my life, the quiet confidence that ultimately everything will be all right, and the determined choice to praise God in all things." Have you ever seen someone live out this definition of joy? Has it been a part of your life? Explain? Take some time to pray that God would build in each of you a faith that is full of joy.

## PERSONAL GUIDE FOR WEEK OF JANUARY 29<sup>TH</sup>

**DAY 1 - James 5:7-11** How does patience, even during suffering, strengthen us?

**DAY 2 - Hebrews 12:1-17** How does looking to Jesus keep our faith focused?

**DAY 3 - Hebrews 12:18-29** What does it mean to "receive a kingdom that cannot be shaken?"

**DAY 4 - James 1:2-15** How can joy be a part of someone's life even during hard times?

**DAY 5 - 1 Peter 4:1-19** How is what Peter writes here different than his interaction with Jesus in Matthew 16:21-26?

**KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS NOT IN A GROUP? ENCOURAGE THEM TO COME TO YOUR GROUP, OR TO GROUP LINK NEXT SUNDAY (2/12) AFTER EACH SERVICE.**

MOUNTAIN-TOP  
SUNDAYS

ROCK-BOTTOM  
MONDAYS

DEVELOPING A ROCK-SOLID FAITH

MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP  
DISCUSSION // PERSONAL GUIDES

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2017



## “Open Mouth, Insert Foot” [Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

### MESSAGE NOTES

...real faith...is often \_\_\_\_\_ messier, difficult, and challenging than we think it should be.

*Note Matthew 16:13-16*

Real faith in our real lives includes moments of doubt, seasons of \_\_\_\_\_, and how to choose the spiritual disciplines of life we would have never chosen for ourselves that God uses in His spiritual growth plan (Part 2) to make us more like Jesus.

*Note Matthew 16:17-18, 21-22*

So why is it we, like Peter, get Jesus and His purpose and \_\_\_\_\_ for our lives so wrong?:

### 1. We Think We Know \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus had singled out Peter from the 11 other disciples (i.e., changed his \_\_\_\_\_, very significant thing in Biblical times).

Like nearly all Jewish people 2,000 years ago, Peter believed that the Messiah was going to be a combination political leader and military \_\_\_\_\_.  
(*note Matthew 20:17-23*).

So when Jesus shared His purpose and \_\_\_\_\_ with the disciples  
(*note Matthew 16:21*), this was not what Peter believed...

...Peter got the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Messiah right, but got His mission all wrong.

Peter had not signed up to follow a \_\_\_\_\_ Messiah...

...so Peter does what all of us do with God at various times in our lives (*note Matthew 16:22*, “\_\_\_\_\_ him”).

*Note Matthew 16:23*—it’s never a good day when Jesus calls you \_\_\_\_\_...

...but that’s how \_\_\_\_\_ out of phase Peter was (and we are) when we think we know better than God.

### 2. We Don’t \_\_\_\_\_ What Following Jesus Really Means

- A. It’s not about \_\_\_\_\_ (*note Matthew 16:24*) - following Jesus is not about s\_\_\_\_\_ our self-image...or feeding our \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Don’t be surprised that it is \_\_\_\_\_ (*note Matthew 16:24-25*) - Much later in his life, Peter understood this (*note 1 Peter \_\_\_\_\_*). Any \_\_\_\_\_ is hard. It’s hard denying our \_\_\_\_\_ selves. *Our lives are our most \_\_\_\_\_ earthly possession. Nothing displays the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus more than our willingness to give away our lives (in small and large ways) for His sake.* (Bloom)
- C. Denying ourselves what is less important in order to embrace what is \_\_\_\_\_ important (*note Matthew 16:26*). *JOY = the settled assurance that God is in control of every detail in my life, the quiet confidence that ultimately everything will be all right, and the determined \_\_\_\_\_ to praise God in all things.* (Kay Warren) *Note Hebrews 11:25-26*

*Mountain-Top Sundays and Rock-Bottom Mondays:*

- Following Jesus, putting Him first in everything, making Him the first priority and ultimate focus of our lives, makes other things \_\_\_\_\_ in comparison.
- Real faith means realizing that even when the spiritual disciplines we never asked for come \_\_\_\_\_ into our lives, we understand that we don’t know better than God, and that we embrace what following Jesus really means.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!



“Open Mouth, Insert Foot”  
Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor

## MESSAGE NOTES

...real faith...is often far messier, difficult, and challenging than we think it should be.  
Note Matthew 16:13-16

Real faith in our real lives includes moments of doubt, seasons of struggles, and how to choose the spiritual disciplines of life we would have never chosen for ourselves that God uses in His spiritual growth plan (Part 2) to make us more like Jesus.

Note Matthew 16:17-18, 21-22

So why is it we, like Peter, get Jesus and His purpose and mission for our lives so wrong?:

### 1. We Think We Know Better

Jesus had singled out Peter from the 11 other disciples (i.e., changed his name, very significant thing in Biblical times).

Like nearly all Jewish people 2,000 years ago, Peter believed that the Messiah was going to be a combination political leader and military liberator... (note Matthew 20:17-23).

So when Jesus shared His purpose and mission with the disciples (note Matthew 16:21), this was not what Peter believed...

...Peter got the identity of the Messiah right, but got His mission all wrong.

Peter had not signed up to follow a failed Messiah...

...so Peter does what all of us do with God at various times in our lives (note Matthew 16:22, "rebuke him").

Note Matthew 16:23 - it's never a good day when Jesus calls you Satan...

...but that's how 180 degrees out of phase Peter was (and we are) when we think we know better than God.

### 2. We Don't Embrace What Following Jesus Really Means

A. It's not about you (note Matthew 16:24) - following Jesus is not about stroking our self-image...or feeding our ego.

B. Don't be surprised that it is hard (note Matthew 16:24-25) - Much later in his life, Peter understood this (note 1 Peter 4:12). Any death is hard. It's hard denying our fallen selves. *Our lives are our most precious earthly possession. Nothing displays the worth of Jesus more than our willingness to give away our lives (in small and large ways) for His sake.* (Bloom)

C. Denying ourselves what is less important in order to embrace what is eternally important (note Matthew 16:26). JOY = *the settled assurance that God is in control of every detail in my life, the quiet confidence that ultimately everything will be all right, and the determined choice to praise God in all things.* (Kay Warren) Note Hebrews 11:25-26

*Mountain-Top Sundays and Rock-Bottom Mondays:*

- Following Jesus, putting Him first in everything, making Him the first priority and ultimate focus of our lives, makes other things pale in comparison.
- Real faith means realizing that even when the spiritual disciplines we never asked for come crashing into our lives, we understand that we don't know better than God, and that we embrace what following Jesus really means.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual