

Today's Reading: Mark 8:27-30

And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

Simple Summary (for Parents):

This short passage identifies one of the central truths of Mark's Gospel—Jesus is the Christ. To call Jesus "the Christ" is to identify Him as the Messiah, or God's Spirit-Anointed King and Deliverer. Throughout the Old Testament, God had promised to send His people a Messiah who would save them from their sins, deliver them from their enemies, and lead them to experience the fullness of God's blessing. The disciples are beginning to see that this promised Messiah is Jesus, but they don't yet grasp how this truth fits with Jesus's coming crucifixion. For now, Jesus tells them not to spread this news. Let your children know that there's no more important question than the one Jesus asks in today's passage—"Who do people say that I am?"

Discuss:

1. If you knew that a great and powerful king was coming to your town, what would you expect him to look like? What would you expect him to wear? What kinds of things would you expect him to do?

(Use these questions to help set up the rest of the questions about Jesus's true identity.)

2. Why would people have thought that Jesus was John the Baptist, Elijah, or one of the other prophets?

(Like John, Jesus urged people to repent because God's kingdom had arrived. Like Elijah and the other prophets in the Old Testament, Jesus delivered God's message to God's people. However, as the Son of God, Jesus was more than just another prophet.)

3. How would you answer Jesus's question—who do you say that He is?

(There are a number of right ways to answer this question: Jesus is God's Son, the Christ, the Savior, the Lord, etc. Emphasize to your children the importance of this question.)

4. What did Peter mean when he called Jesus the “Christ”?

(Explain to your children that “the Christ” was the promised King sent by God in order to save His people. Jesus is that Savior-King! Peter still had a lot to learn about what kind of king Jesus would be, but he was right when he called Jesus the Christ.)

5. Why do you think it was difficult for people to recognize Jesus as the Savior-King sent by God?

(We normally expect kings to have a lot of money and to order people around and to dress in expensive clothes. But Jesus came to serve sinners like us by dying on the cross. He was a King, but a very different kind of king than most people expected.)

Pray:

Thank God for sending Jesus, the promised Messiah, to be our King and our Savior.

Sing:

[“A Mighty Fortress”](#) (See Week 2 Song Sheet for lyrics)