

TALK IT OVER

How is everyone doing right now? Do you have any needs? (How are your people doing? Everyone is feeling fatigue so feel your people out here.)

Before you read the passage remind your few of the questions to think through. **HEAD-** What new thing did you discover? What did you learn about God? What did you learn about people? **HEART-** What will you take away from the discussion? **HANDS-** What will you do with what you've learned? Read Matthew 16:13-18 (On 2nd page. It's in the NLT version but feel free to read from a different one.) Once you've read the passages ask these questions:

HEAD

- What new thing did you discover in the story that you did not know before?
- What did you learn about God? (Why do you think Jesus established the church as his? Joe said the word Jesus used for church carries the implication- The authority of the speaker dictates the nature of the calling. If that's the case what makes the church a special gathering? Why do you think Jesus chose to center his church around people (movement) rather than a place (building)? What does that mean for us in light of 2020 (covid)? Why is the church unstoppable? {**Seriously...Jesus said Satan can't defeat it but there have been lots of times the church failed or was silent. What did Jesus mean by saying that?**})
- What did you learn about people? (Why do you think we have sectioned off into our own little kingdoms? Is that always a bad thing? Why/why not? How do we balance being Shift church and still being part of the capital C Church? 1 Peter 2:4-5 says that we are the living stones God is building into his spiritual temple. What does that say to you? What does that mean for us at Shift church? [**How do we actively live that out?**] If we are the church and the church is unstoppable why doesn't it feel that way all the time? [**I don't feel unstoppable**] What did Jesus mean when he said that in regards to us/you? [**I'm thinking this is different from the viewpoint of the church as a whole. More along the lines of feeling this individually.**]

HEART

- What will you take away from this discussion? (What did God say to you?)

HANDS

- What will you do with what you have learned? (How do you currently fit into God's design of the church? [Idea being that the local church does so much outside of Sunday morning and outside the staff.] What do you need to change about how you view the church & participate in growing the kingdom in Gainesville? What can you do right now/this week that will help you move towards what God is asking of you?)
- Is there anything else you wanted to share that we didn't hit in this discussion?
- Next week make sure to read 1 Peter 2:4-12 Think through the questions we ask weekly as you read.

Encourage your small group to do a watch party on Facebook with the LIVE Sunday service for our series **The Church: Defined** this Sunday. Ask them to invite coworkers and friends to watch with them at 10:10. Also, make sure to comment as you watch on the feed to encourage community and discussion.

TALK IT OVER

Make sure to check in with your SG this week. We are all going through a lot. How can you pray for them? This is where the discipleship aspect comes in. Work towards identifying your 3 (that you can really pour into) and then your 1 (that person that will replicate what you're doing now). Take a few minutes each day and make a text or phone call to everyone in the group.

Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being.¹⁸ Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'),^[d] and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell^[e] will not conquer it.

Make sure to read ahead of time and either retell the story or have someone (multiple people) help you retelling the story. Make sure to use your update with points from Brad's sermon.

Matthew 16:13-18 New Living Translation (NLT)

Peter's Declaration about Jesus

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"^[a]

¹⁴ "Well," they replied, "some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."

¹⁵ Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?"

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah,^[b] the Son of the living God."

¹⁷ Jesus replied, "You are blessed, Simon son of John,^[c] because my