



The Turn to Jerusalem

March 6

Matthew 16:13-23

Object Lessons and Storytelling Ideas

- Do some research and talk about what the people expected the Messiah to do; compare this to what Jesus actually did.
- Re-enact the story from this passage. Talk about why the disciples (and all people) don't like to hear about hard things that are coming.
- Talk about the title "Son of Man" and what Jesus meant by using it.
 - Check out www.bibleproject.com/explore/video/son-of-man to learn more.
- We use a lot of different words when we talk about Jesus and God. Make a collage of all the things Jesus is called in the Bible and talk about what they mean. Why was it important that Simon called Jesus the "Christ" and the "Son of God"?

Discussion Ideas and Questions

- Even today, people don't know who Jesus is. Who do they think he is? Who is he really?
- What would you call Jesus?
- Why do you think Jesus didn't want his disciples to tell people that he was the Messiah (in this story)?
- What does it mean for Jesus to be the Messiah? What about the Son of God?
- Why did Jesus call Simon by his other name, Peter? What was he trying to tell Simon Peter?

At Home Connections

- Parents - tell the story of how you chose your child's name. Does the name have a special significance? What prayer and dreams do you have for your child?
- On this first Sunday of Lent, set up an Advent-like progression, such as a Lego character on a path, that depicts Jesus' movement toward the cross. Talk about how Jesus did a difficult but right and good thing. What hard thing are they, or you as a family, doing that Jesus understands? As Jesus walks to Jerusalem, Jesus also walks with us.