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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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*Written for August 23, 2026*

*Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

*Lectionary Year A*

**Scripture:** [Matthew 16:13-20](#) [ **Summary:** *Peter Knows Jesus Is The Messiah* ]

**Supplies Needed:** No supplies needed.

**ASK** (a.k.a. [The On-Ramp](#))

- Good morning!
- I have some questions for you about superheroes.
- A lot of superheroes have two different names, right?
- They have their normal name and then they have their superhero name.
- For instance, do you know the normal name of the person who is Spiderman? (Peter Parker)
- How about the normal name of the person who is Batman? (Bruce Wayne)
- And the normal name of Superman? (Clark Kent)
- You really know your superheroes! Can you tell me how you learned so much about them?
- (If you don't receive an answer, **ask**: Is it because you read, watch, and pay attention to stories about those superheroes?).

**TELL** (a.k.a. [The Freeway](#))

- Even though you know both the normal and superhero names of those superheroes, most of the people who are *in* those superhero stories do NOT know both names of the superhero.
- Instead, it is only the people who are closest to those superheroes who know both of their names, who truly know who the superheroes are.
- In today's scripture story, something like this happens with Jesus and his disciples.
- Jesus asks his disciples who other people say Jesus is -- and there are lots of different answers -- answers that are incorrect.

- So then Jesus asks his disciples who THEY think he is.
- Peter says "You are the Messiah" and Jesus says, "You are right! And, because you know who I am, you will help others know who I am."

## **SHARE the Good News** (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- The reason Peter knows who Jesus really is and other people do not know who Jesus really is because Peter and the disciples are paying close attention to Jesus.
- Peter is a student of Jesus. He follows Jesus and goes wherever Jesus goes. He's watching and listening to Jesus.
- Because he does this, then he learns both of Jesus' names. He knows Jesus the teacher and he knows Jesus the messiah.
- And guess what?
- We can know Jesus in the same way that Peter does.
- We, too, can follow Jesus and learn from him.
- And the way we do that is the same way you learned both names of the superheroes we talked about earlier – by reading, discussing, and paying attention to the stories – in this case the stories about Jesus.
- This is one of the reasons why we talk about the Jesus stories when we are in worship and in Sunday school classes...
- ...so that we can learn from Jesus and learn about who Jesus really is by reading and discussing the Bible stories that are about him.
- And, the more we learn about Jesus, the more we can help others learn about Jesus, just like Peter did..
- And that's the good news for today. Let's pray.
- This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

### **CLOSING Prayer**

**Dear God,**  
 Dear God,

**Thank you for stories of Jesus...**

Thank you for stories of Jesus...

**...that help us learn...**

...that help us learn...

**...who he really is...**

...who he really is...

**...so that we can help others learn...**

...so that we can help others learn...

**...about Jesus and you.**

...about Jesus and you.

**Thank you and Amen**