

**Home Group Study Material for w/c 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011**  
**Matthew 16:13-20 and 1 Peter 2:4-10 (as time permits)**

**Suggested questions for discussion** – as usual please modify them as appropriate for your group

*The aim of the study is primarily to understand that Jesus is the Son of God. This is the most important question in the world. Our eternal destiny depends upon our answer. Nothing is more important in life than what you believe about Jesus. The church is made up of people who understand who understand who Jesus is, and have “come to him” (1 Peter 2:4). The church was founded by Jesus and is still being built by him. However imperfect it is in practice, if we’re his disciples we’re to get involved*

1. ‘Intro’ question: What is your earliest memory of Jesus? Who did you think that he is/was then? Why did you think this?

**Please read Matthew 16:13-20**

2. Why did Jesus ask his disciples who he was? And why does he start by asking them what other people thought first?
3. Why did the ‘people’ give the answers they did in verse 14 (John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah and the prophets)? Why was Peter able to give the answer he did?
4. Thinking back to your answer to Q1, have you changed your mind who Jesus is, since those first memories? Who do you now think he is? What made you change your mind?
5. What are the main reasons for people in Lewes today not believing that Jesus is the Son of God? What can we do, to help them see that he is

In verse 17 and 18, Jesus commends Peter for his God given insight and starts to talk about how he will be building his precious and indestructible church. Later in his life Peter built on these words that Jesus spoke to him, in a passage in 1 Peter

**Please read 1 Peter 2:4-10**

6. What is your attitude to the church? Why do people sometimes struggle with it? Do you agree with my statement that: “persistent, faithful, committed participation in a local body of believers is vital for the spiritual wellbeing of every Christian”? Why or why not?
7. Do you think of yourself as a ‘living stone’ that is “being built into a spiritual house” (see verse 5)? In what way? How does it affect your day-to-day life? Does this need to be changed in the light of this study?

8. Peter tell us that when we belong to “the living Stone” (Jesus) we are *“a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light”*. (1 Peter 2:9)

Finish your study by praising God in a time of prayer for this glorious prophetic description of Southover (and every other local church). And pray that we might, together, become more and more true to it.

Issued by Jeremy Bamber  
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