



Sermon Discussion Questions  
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Series: Fake News  
Week 4: Perfect Fit!

1. ICE BREAKER: Today Pastor Dale started with a word association test. Take a few moments to do this with your group! Choose your own words, or use these suggestions: Antonyms of slow, hot, and dark? Synonyms of big, smart, and difficult?
2. Read our Scripture for this week, Matthew 16:13-20:
  - <sup>13</sup>When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"
  - <sup>14</sup>They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."
  - <sup>15</sup>"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"
  - <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."
  - <sup>17</sup>Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you that you

are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." <sup>20</sup>Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

What questions do you have about this story? Why do you think Jesus asks who people think He is? Who do you say that Jesus is?

3. At the end of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave an important teaching about narrowness. Read His words in Matthew 7:13-14, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."

What does this mean to you? Why did Jesus say that the road that leads to destruction is broad? Why is the road that leads to life narrow? Why do you think Jesus chose to say this at the end of the Sermon on the Mount? How are the two related?

4. Today we discussed that in order for truth to be truth, it has to be narrow. In other words, all truth is narrow.

Do you agree with this? Why or why not? What are some examples in common culture that you can think of that illustrate the narrowness of truth? What would happen if the truth was not narrow? For example, what if we didn't all agree on what a dollar is worth? Or which way north is?

5. Jesus first began by asking a general question about people. Read Matthew 16:13, "When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?'" This question is very important for our spiritually open culture today.

Who do people say Jesus is today? What are some different ideas about Him that are floating around in our culture? Why is it important for us to understand what others think about Jesus? How can we invite people in our own lives to share what they think about Jesus?

6. Then, Jesus directs His question directly to the disciples, and asks, "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"(Matthew 16:15).

This may be the most important question you ever answer in your life. Who do you say Jesus is? Has this idea shifted over the course of your life at all? If so, how? Why does it matter who you believe Jesus is? How does this affect how you live?

7. Many historians believe that Simon Peter answered this question as a representative of the rest of the disciples. Read his response and what Jesus says in reply in Matthew 16:16-18.

What did Jesus mean when He said He would build His church on this rock? Why was it significant that this confession was made in Caesarea Philippi? (Hint: remember that it was a political and religious hub of the pagan world.)

8. Oftentimes holding to a narrow truth in our world makes people think that we are narrow-minded. Some people hold to truth in a way that makes them judgemental, mean, or unloving. However, narrow belief doesn't necessarily mean we act in a narrow-minded way.

Why is it important to believe the 'narrow' truth about Jesus? How do we hold this truth without being narrow-minded? What harm is caused by people who act in a narrow-minded way? Describe what it looks like to hold a narrow truth *without* being narrow-minded.

9. Read 1 Peter 3:15, "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

Discuss this verse. How well do you think Christians do in following Peter's instructions? What does it mean to be prepared to give an answer? How important are gentleness and respect? What is challenging you in this verse?

10. PRACTICE: Take some time as a group to pray together. Ask God to bring to mind someone that has been hurt by the Church, or hurt by someone who is narrow-minded about the truth they believe. Pray specifically for that person.