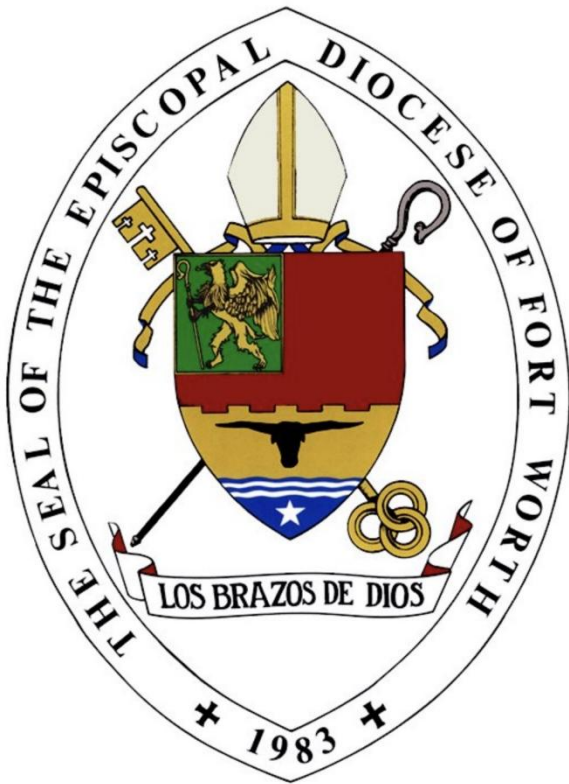


EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

A lectionary-based Sunday school curriculum for Pre-K through High School



**PROPER 16
YEAR A**

**Sunday from
August 21 to
August 27**

A free resource created by the Christian Education Commission
of the Anglican Diocese of Fort Worth

Sunday School Curriculum for Sunday from August 21 to August 27, Proper 16 – Year A

Lectionary Texts:

Isaiah 51:1-6

Psalms 138

Romans 11:25-36

Matthew 16:13-20

Isaiah 51:1-6

The Lord's Saving Power for Zion Lasts Forever

51 The Lord says, "Listen to me, you who want to do what is right.

Pay attention, you who look to me.

Consider the rock you were cut out of.

Think about the rock pit you were dug from.

² Consider Abraham. He is the father of your people.

Think about Sarah. She is your mother.

When I chose Abraham, he did not have any children.

But I blessed him and gave him many of them.

³ You can be sure that I will comfort Zion's people.

I will look with loving concern on all their destroyed buildings.

I will make their deserts like Eden.

I will make their dry and empty land like the garden of the Lord.

Joy and gladness will be there.

People will sing and give thanks to me.

⁴ "Listen to me, my people.

Pay attention, my nation.

My instruction will go out to the nations.

I make everything right.

That will be a guiding light for them.

⁵ The time for me to set you free is near.

I will soon save you.

My powerful arm will make everything right among the nations.

The islands will put their hope in me.

They will wait for my powerful arm to act.

⁶ Look up toward the heavens.

Then look at the earth.

The heavens will vanish like smoke.
The earth will wear out like clothes.
Those who live there will die like flies.
But I will save you forever.
My saving power will never end.

Psalm 138

A psalm of David.

138 Lord, I will praise you with all my heart.
In front of those who think they are gods
I will sing praise to you.
² I will bow down facing your holy temple.
I will praise your name,
because you are always loving and faithful.
You have honored your holy word
even more than your own fame.
³ When I called out to you, you answered me.
You made me strong and brave.

⁴ Lord, may all the kings on earth praise you
when they hear about what you have decided.
⁵ Lord, may they sing about what you have done,
because your glory is great.

⁶ Though the Lord is high above all, he cares for the lowly.
Though he is in heaven above, he sees them on earth below.
⁷ Trouble is all around me,
but you keep me alive.
You reach out your hand to put a stop to the anger of my enemies.
With your powerful right hand you save me.
⁸ Lord, you will show that I was right to trust you.
Lord, your faithful love continues forever.
You have done so much for us, so don't stop now.

Romans 11:25-36

All Israel Will Be Saved

²⁵ Brothers and sisters, here is a mystery I want you to understand. It will keep you from being proud. Part of Israel has refused to obey God. That will continue until the full number of Gentiles has entered God's kingdom. ²⁶ In this way all Israel will be saved. It is written,

“The God who saves will come from Mount Zion.

He will remove sin from Jacob’s family.

²⁷ Here is my covenant with them.

I will take away their sins.”

²⁸ As far as the good news is concerned, the people of Israel are enemies. This is for your good. But as far as God’s choice is concerned, the people of Israel are loved. This is because of God’s promises to the founders of our nation. ²⁹ God does not take back his gifts. He does not change his mind about those he has chosen. ³⁰ At one time you did not obey God. But now you have received mercy because Israel did not obey. ³¹ In the same way, Israel has not been obeying God. But now they receive mercy because of God’s mercy to you. ³² God has found everyone guilty of not obeying him. So now he can have mercy on everyone.

Praise to God

³³ How very rich are God’s wisdom and knowledge!

How he judges is more than we can understand!

The way he deals with people is more than we can know!

³⁴ “Who can ever know what the Lord is thinking?

Or who can ever give him advice?”

³⁵ “Has anyone ever given anything to God,

so that God has to pay them back?”

³⁶ All things come from him.

All things are directed by him.

All things are for his praise.

May God be given the glory forever! Amen.

Matthew 16:13-20

Peter Says That Jesus Is the Messiah

¹³ Jesus went to the area of Caesarea Philippi. There he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

¹⁴ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist. Others say Elijah. Still others say Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.”

¹⁵ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah. You are the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah! No mere human showed this to you. My Father in heaven showed it to you. ¹⁸ Here is what I tell you. You are Peter. On this rock I will build my church. The gates of hell will not be strong enough to destroy

it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. What you lock on earth will be locked in heaven. What you unlock on earth will be unlocked in heaven.” ²⁰ Then Jesus ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Overview of the Texts:

This week's readings are focused on the relationship between God and Israel, and His promise to redeem them that finally comes in Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah, the Son of the Living God. (Matthew 16:16) The Old Testament reading from Isaiah is one of the places that God promises to save His people, that He chose beginning with Abraham and Sarah, but that would become all mankind: His salvation has already gone out to them (Isaiah 51:5) and it will be forever (verse 6). This is also noted in Psalm 138:4 “All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth.” In Romans, Paul focuses on the strange relationship he sees between the Jews and the Gentiles in this salvation of God, but there can be no doubt it is for all. (verse 32) Finally, the Gospel shows the beginning of the Church: God’s chosen people, drawn from and built out of Abraham’s seed, begins with Jesus’ disciples, and Peter, the Rock of Christ’s Church, because He recognized Jesus as the promised Saviour.

Pre-K - Kindergarten Lesson Plan:

Opening: Lord’s Prayer

Supplies and Preparation:

Supplies: Rock coloring sheets and coloring supplies. Optional: acrylic paint, brushes, paper plates, cups, water, and butcher paper or plastic tablecloth.

Preparation: Draw a rock shape with a marker on plain white paper and make copies for each child. If desired, some acrylic paints might be made ready for the children to make handprints with by pouring some on a disposable plate. Otherwise, make the sheets and the colors available.

Lesson:

- Greet the students and ask them to share things that are small but that they think are important.
- Read Matthew 16:13-20 or give a simple summary.
- Ask what it means to be a rock. What are the qualities of a rock? *Hard, tough, strong.*
- Ask if a rock can be both small and important. Can you build something with small rocks? *Yes. Small rocks can be stacked together to build something big and strong Show picture of a house built of stones.* A whole building can be made with small stones. I wonder how many stones it took to build this building?

- Explain that Jesus chose Peter to be one small rock of many, but a very important one. Jesus said he would build his church on Peter. He meant that Peter would be very important to starting up the Church that Jesus wanted to have to teach the world about himself and the Good News.
- Explain that the name Jesus gave him (Peter/Cephas) means “rock.”
- Explain that Jesus wants us all to be rocks in one big building, and that Peter was given his name because he was the first one to go in, but we are all part of that building.

Activity: Coloring the handout and cutting it out, if desired

- Provide each student with a rock coloring sheet to decorate or color.
- If desired, making a handprint in paint is an excellent way to decorate the sheet and enforce the idea that the student is one beloved rock belonging to Jesus.
- The instructor(s) should label each with the student’s name.
- The instructor(s) can then cut out the rocks and affix them stacked together to a paper banner/poster to show how the students can be part of a strong structure – the Church. Hang the banner/poster in the classroom.

Closing Prayer: Lord’s Prayer

Elementary Lesson Plan:

Opening: Lord’s Prayer

Supplies and Preparation:

Supplies: Acrylic paints, paintbrushes, river rocks with large flat surfaces, cups, paper plates, water, butcher paper or plastic table cloths, sharpies. Paint pens can also be helpful but are optional.

Preparation: Cover the available painting surfaces with butcher paper or plastic tablecloth. Have cups of water available for rinsing brushes. You may wish to give students a paper plate prepared with small amounts of paint or be prepared to help them select their desired colors and do the portion control yourself.

Lesson:

- Greet the students and ask them to share things that are small but that they think are important.
- Read Matthew 16:13-20 or give a simple summary.
- Ask what it means to be a rock. What are the qualities of a rock? *Hard, tough, strong.*

- Ask if a rock can be both small and important. Can you build something with small rocks? **Yes.**
- Explain that Jesus chose Peter to be one small rock of many, but a very important one. Jesus said he would build his church on Peter. He meant that Peter would be very important to starting up the Church that Jesus wanted to have to teach the world about himself and the Good News.
- Explain that the name Jesus gave him (Peter/Cephas) means “rock.”
- Explain that Jesus wants us all to be rocks in one big building, and that Peter was given his name because he was the first one to go in, but we are all part of that building. *Show picture of a house built of stones.* A whole building can be made with small stones. I wonder how many stones it took to build this building?
- Ask the children how a person becomes a rock in the mighty structure of the Church? *A person becomes part of the Church by joining God’s family in baptism and then sharing in the ministry of Jesus in the world.* Ask the children how they can share in that ministry. *They can grow in faith by going to church, reading the Bible, participating in the life of the church, sharing the Good News of Jesus, inviting friends to come to know Jesus, caring for the needs of others, etc.*

Activity: Rock Painting

- Ask the students to pick a rock and a work area.
- Allow the students to paint the rocks.
- A few ideas might be suggested: painting a church or cross and writing their own name on it reinforces the lesson by adding themselves as rocks within the building of the Church. But everyone, including the instructor(s), should feel free to be creative in making a fun and beautiful rock. If they have not painted their name on the rock, mark their names with a sharpie.
- Be sure to have a place for the rocks to dry.
- Once dried (likely the next week), demonstrate the importance of the sturdy rocks together by stacking them into a simple wall shape. After that, they can be used to beautify the church property (with the Rector’s approval), the Sunday school room, or the students can take them home.

Closing Prayer: Lord’s Prayer

Junior High Lesson Plan:

Opening: Lord’s Prayer

Supplies and Preparation:

Supplies: Acrylic paints, paintbrushes, river rocks with large flat surfaces, cups, paper plates, water, butcher paper or plastic table cloths, sharpies. Paint pens can also be helpful but are optional.

Preparation: Cover the available painting surfaces with butcher paper or plastic tablecloth. Have cups of water available for rinsing brushes. You may wish to give students a paper plate prepared with small amounts of paint or be prepared to help them select their desired colors and do the portion control yourself (all ages tend to “overserve” paint!).

Lesson:

- Greet the students and ask them to share things that are small but that they think are important.
- Take turns reading Matthew 16:13-20 verse by verse.
- Ask what it means to be a rock. What are the qualities/characteristics of rocks?
- Ask if a rock can be both small and important. If you want to build something, do you need lots of good strong rocks? *Show picture of a house built of stones.* A whole building can be made with small stones.
- Explain that Jesus chose Peter to be one small rock of many, but a very important one. He was considered “first among equals.” What do you think that means? It means that while he was a leader, he was among equals with the Apostles. They all played very important roles in building the church together.
- Explain that the name Jesus gave him means “Rock” but also a small rock.
- Explain that Jesus wants us all to be rocks in one big building, and that Peter was given his name because he was the first one to go in, but we are all part of that building.

Activity: Rock Painting

- Ask the students to pick a rock and a work area.
- Allow the students to paint the rocks.
- A few ideas might be suggested: painting a church or cross and writing their own name on it reinforces the lesson by adding themselves as rocks within the building of the Church. But everyone, including the instructor(s), should feel free to be creative in making a fun and beautiful rock. If they have not painted their name on the rock, mark their names with a sharpie.
- Be sure to have a place for the rocks to dry.
- Once dried (likely the next week), demonstrate the importance of the sturdy rocks together by stacking them into a simple wall shape. After that, they can be used

to beautify the church property (with the Rector's approval), the Sunday school room, or the students can take them home.

Closing Prayer: Lord's Prayer

Senior High Lesson Plan:

Opening: Lord's Prayer

Supplies and Preparation:

Supplies: Acrylic paints, paintbrushes, river rocks with large flat surfaces, cups, paper plates, water, butcher paper or plastic table cloths, sharpies. Paint pens can also be helpful but are optional.

Preparation: Cover the available painting surfaces with butcher paper or plastic tablecloth. Have cups of water available for rinsing brushes. You may wish to give students a paper plate prepared with small amounts of paint or be prepared to help them select their desired colors and do the portion control yourself (all ages tend to "overserve" paint!).

Lesson:

- Greet the students and ask them to share things that are small but that they think are important.
- Take turns reading Matthew 16:13-20 verse by verse.
- Explain that the name Jesus gives to Simon, Peter, means "rock." Ask what it means to be a rock. What are the qualities/characteristics of rocks? How is Peter like a rock?
- Ask if a rock can be both small and important. Explain that the name Jesus gives to Simon, Peter, means not just a rock but a small rock.
- If you want to build something, do you need lots of good strong rocks? *Show picture of a house built of stones.* A whole building can be made with small stones.
- Explain that Jesus chose Peter to be one small rock of many, but a very important one. He was considered "first among equals." What do you think that means? It means that while he was a leader, he was among equals with the Apostles. They all played very important roles in building the church together.
- Explain that the name Jesus gave him means "Rock" but also a small rock. Ask why Jesus would plant His Church upon a small rock.
- Explain that Jesus wants us all to be rocks in one big building, and that Peter was given his name because he was the first one to go in, but we are all part of

that building. Ask if the students should see themselves as rocks within the Church. Why? Ask what they can do to become those rocks.

Activity: Rock Painting

- Ask the students to pick a rock and a work area.
- Allow the students to paint the rocks.
- A few ideas might be suggested: painting a church or cross and writing their own name on it reinforces the lesson by adding themselves as rocks within the building of the Church. But everyone, including the instructor(s), should feel free to be creative in making a fun and beautiful rock. If they have not painted their name on the rock, mark their names with a sharpie.
- Be sure to have a place for the rocks to dry.
- Once dried (likely the next week), demonstrate the importance of the sturdy rocks together by stacking them into a simple wall shape. After that, they can be used to beautify the church property (with the Rector's approval), the Sunday school room, or the students can take them home.

Closing Prayer: Lord's Prayer



