

Mystic



✓ Prepare in Advance

- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.
- Provide tag strips of paper.
- Provide markers.
- Provide a candle and matches.

✓ Jesus' Words

Read the scripture for this session: Matthew 16:13-20. Invite two different people to read aloud the passage. Then, watch the *Bible Background Video*.

For this activity, invite participants to write Jesus' words on the tag strips of paper. . . one sentence on each.

Place these in the middle of the group (if sitting in a circle) or at the front of the group so that everyone can see them.

Invite people to focus on the sentence that most catches their attention. Ask them to silently notice what tone of voice they assign to Jesus' words.

- How do they imagine that Jesus spoke the sentence?
- What might Jesus' tone (as they imagine it) tell them about *their* understanding of who Jesus is?
- Imagine that Jesus is speaking the sentence to you. What does it have to do with your life at the moment?
- What, if anything, do you hear beneath his words?
- How do you respond to Jesus? (Participants can jot down their thoughts if they wish).

Invite persons to share their thoughts and read their chosen sentence out loud in the tone they imagine Jesus having.

Invite a second round of sharing:

- Did anyone else's sharing evoke a response in you? What? (Note to leader: encourage people NOT to discount anyone's comments or try to correct/fix anyone's theology. Participants are simply to share what happened within them as they listened).

✓ Closing

Spend some time in silence, holding all that has been shared.

Pass a candle around the group – invite each person to share one sentence about who they say Jesus is at this point in their lives.

by Joy Yee

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BERT MONTGOMERY
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