



January 3, 2021
Matthew 16:13-19

Connect:

- It's Epiphany or what we call at Broadway, *Star Word* Sunday! If you drew a word in worship the first Sunday of 2020, share with your group what your word was and how it impacted your journey in the year. If you were not with us or did not share in the practice, choose a word to describe your experience of 2020. Why did you choose that particular word? How did it shape you?

Engage

- Read **Matthew 16:13-19**. This is a threshold moment for the disciples, Peter in particular. It's easy to name what other people are saying about Jesus but another thing altogether to answer the question, "Who do you say that I am?" How do you answer Jesus' question for yourself? Why?
- Jesus gives Peter the name as we know him in this moment. "Cephas" (*Peter*) which means "Rock" in Aramaic. Jesus says, "On this rock I will build my church." This surely built Pete's confidence and shaped his leadership moving forward. What is a name you've been called (*nickname or otherwise*) that has shaped you positively or negatively? What power has that word/name had over/in you?
- Even as Jesus gives Peter great responsibility, he doesn't expect perfection. Jesus simply trusts Peter's heart and character to lead the movement forward. What do feel is your responsibility in the Kingdom-of-God-effort on earth? What is "yours to do"?
- Do you fully grasp the power of your words? Scripture is full of instruction about how to use your words and how to protect what you say. "Use only words that build up." (Eph 4:29). "Your tongue is the most powerful part of the body." (James 3). Do you only use words to build up or is this an area that needs some focused attention in your life? Share an example.

Next Steps:

- If you have not already and would like to receive your own, unique *Star Word* for 2021, please text us! Send in the body of your text message, "BroadwayCC" to the number 94000. You will be prompted to open a link, share your name and email address, and a unique-to-you word will be drawn at random, prayed over, and mailed to your home. When you receive your word, consider your immediate impressions with an open heart. Look up the definition. Consider its origin and synonyms. Pray that God may reveal to you something new in and through this word in 2021. If you have further questions about getting your word, contact Ingrid at the church office.
- Who could you build up with your words this week? Choose someone in your life to encourage. Send them a positive text, email, note or call them on the phone.

Pray:

- "We dedicate this year to you, O Lord. May we be open enough to receive from you wisdom, strength, courage, and grace to be guided in the way you would have us go. Amen."