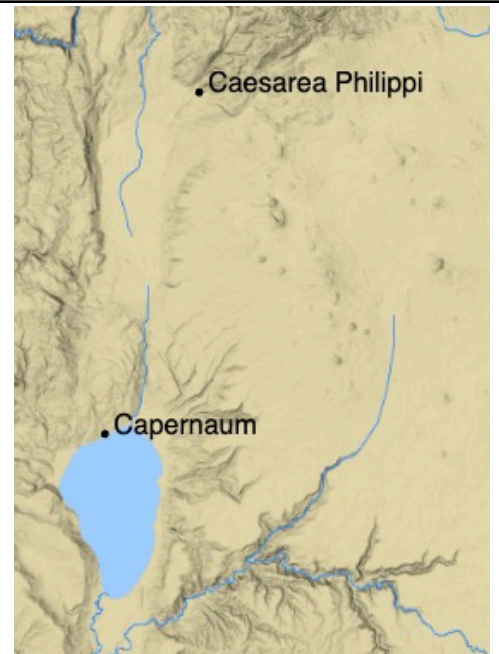


Caesarea Philippi

- During the Hellenistic Period, it was the worship center of the god Pan and the Nymphs and renamed Paneas; there are five niches in the cliff which are the remains of the temple of the Greek god.
- Pan was the half-man, half-goat god of nature. Goats figured prominently in their worship. It was the Las Vegas of the day. Roman soldiers, among others, would go there on leave and partake in unspeakable immorality.
- The cliff with the giant opening (66’ wide x 49’ tall) may have been called “the gates of Hades,” because of the belief that the springs that once flowed came from the river Styx.
- The spring still flows today, though not from the cave; it merges to become the Jordan River.
- The Canaanites worshipped Baal here, called, Baal Hermon Judges 3:3; 1 Chronicles 5:23
- Known as Baal Gad—Joshua 11:17; 12:7
- Site of Peter’s confession and Jesus’ revelation of His coming death and resurrection* —Matthew 16:13–28; Mark 8:27–30
- Not to be confused with Caesarea on the coastline, the site of several episodes in Acts, including the pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon Gentiles (Acts 10).



Memory Verse #35: “You are the _____, the _____ of the living _____.” (Matthew 16:16).

In His Dust: Talmidim _____ on His _____. “But prove yourselves _____ of the word and not just _____ who _____ themselves.” (James 1:22).

Lesson notes & questions:

Lesson Reflections (review before Apply nights):

- What is at least one new thing I learned about loving God or my neighbor?
- Which topics would I like to know more about or need clarification?
- How does the Holy Spirit want me to apply the lesson’s Scripture to my discipleship?

“Go make disciples...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Mt 28:19-20)



APPLY!

- Share any “Lesson Reflections” with the group. Recite this lesson’s Memory and In His Dust verses; discuss what they mean to you.
- **Matthew 16:13-16 - Who do YOU say I am?**
 - Where did this episode take place, and why is the location significant?
 - Why did Jesus ask the opening question about who others say He is?
 - Why is Peter’s confession so significant?
 - How could you work “Who do you say Jesus is?” into a conversation with an unbelieving neighbor or coworker?
 - How would you respond to someone who says Jesus was a “good moral teacher” or was “a prophet” but was not God?
- **Matthew 16:17-20 - I will build My church**
 - Jesus said the source of Peter’s confession was the Father. How should understanding this affect our personal pride in receiving the gospel? How should it affect our outreach to others?
 - What did Jesus mean by “On this rock I will build my church”? What are some arguments against interpreting the rock as Peter?
 - How is the church doing at not being overcome? How can we, as disciples in Bonham, contribute to the continued building of Jesus’ church and advancement of His kingdom??
 - Why would He tell his disciples to tell no one?
- **Matthew 16:21-23 - “No so, Lord!”**
 - What is out of balance with Peter’s statement in verse 22?
 - Why does Jesus react so strongly?
 - What does Jesus’ rebuke say about the place of the Cross in God’s plan?
- **Matthew 16:24-28 - Who desires to lose life shall find it**
 - Describe to a new believer what it means for someone to “take up his cross.”
 - Why are so many people who call themselves Christians, unwilling to follow Jesus’ path of discipleship as outlined in this section? How can we avoid putting the things of this world ahead of Jesus? How can we help others be doers of Jesus’ words?
- **What do you want to remember and apply from this lesson?**
- **Spend the last five minutes in prayer pairs**
 - Praise for answered prayers, growth, and how God is working in your life
 - Intercessions for our community and society, others with specific needs