



## Group Relaunch Week: January 3-9

10min Welcome / Introduce Guests / Share Life  
Recall the Guidelines / Open in Prayer

2min **Share the Vision: Let's make a disciple making culture together by living transparently and encouraging one another to become like Christ.**

5min **Hook Question:** When was a time you knew you were going to win or be successful at what you were doing? How did knowing you would win affect your performance?

**Background:** Ask someone from your team to read or tell the following background for the story.

2min Today's story takes place in the district of Caesarea Philippi just after Jesus had fed over 4,000 people. Caesarea Philippi was a godless (pagan) district just north of the Sea of Galilee. The population consisted of mostly of pagan Syrians and Greeks. Caesarea Philippi was previously called Paneas due to the regions worship of the Greek god Pan. In fact, recent excavations have revealed pagan caves dedicated to Pan and coins honoring Caesar, who was also worshipped by the people.

Just before arriving in Caesarea Philippi Jesus warned the disciples against the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees. This confused the disciples because they were thinking literally instead of figuratively. As a result, Jesus pointed out their lack of understanding. When he did this, the disciples realized he was not talking about literal leaven for bread, but rather the false teachings of the Pharisees and Sadducees who did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah.

When Jesus and His disciples arrived in Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asked His disciples a very important question. This is where our story begins...

12min **Tell the story from Matthew 16:13-20:** Remember to change up the storyteller often.  
**Rebuild the story:** Group members retell the story based on what they remember.  
**Read the story from Matthew 16:13-20:** Ask the group to read these verses.

### Discussion Questions: learn to talk about God's Word with others...

Head  
Questions:  
Quicker  
tempo.

- What stands out to you the most about this story?
- What does this story teach us about ourselves?
- What does this story teach us about God?

Heart & Hand  
Questions:  
Slow down &  
wait!

- How does knowing who Jesus is affect the way you live?
- How do you need to apply this story to your life?
- Who could retell the story for us? **CHALLENGE:** Tell the story to someone this week!