

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

Staffed by the Josephites since 1952

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 23, 2026



4600 REED ROAD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77051-2857

Parish Office: 713.738.2311 Fax: 713.738.3337

Emergency Contact: 409.963.5633 CCE: 713.731.2775

Parish Hall: 713.731.2725 SVdP Conference: 713.731.2716

WEB Address: <http://www.sfxhouston.com>

E-MAIL: stfrancishou@sfxhouston.com

Parish Office Hours: Tues-Wed 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Fri 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; Closed on Mon & Thur

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/StFrancisXavierCatholicChurchHouston> YouTube: St. Francis Xavier Houston

PASTOR:

Very Rev. Michael Thompson, SSJ

DEACONS:

Michael V. Jenkins

Darryl K. Drenon

Frank J. Laugermann (Retired)

SACRISTAN

Orell Dargin

PARISH SECRETARY

Shirley M. Foreman.....x113

BOOKEEPER

Stacie Boisseau.....x109

DIR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Unella Baber.....x103

ADULT FORMATION (OCIA)

Deacon Michael V. Jenkins

Tierra Ledet

ST VINCENT de PAUL CONFERENCE

Erica Smith

CONTRIBUTIONS/MEMBERSHIP

Agnes Thompson.....x107

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Hope Jackson

HALL MANAGER

Hilton S. Williams 713.542.0120

PLANT MANAGER/MAINTENANCE

Curtis Jones/Eugene Wilson

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Sat: Vigil 5:00 p.m.

Sun: 7:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday (Tue - Fri): 7:00 a.m.

First Friday: 7:00 a.m.

Holy Days: 7:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

CONFESSIONS

One (1) hour before Weekend Masses or by appointment

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

First Friday: 7:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

CHOIR REHEARSALS:

Adult Choirs

Wednesdays: 6:30p.m.

Thursdays: 7:00p.m.

Youth Choir

4th Saturdays: 12:00 Noon

CHOIR DIRECTOR:

Jerry Givens 281.772.9276

MISSION STATEMENT

We, with the grace of the Holy Spirit, proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ as expressed in the beliefs and traditions of the Holy Roman Catholic Church. Through a passion for righteousness and consciousness of duty to God, we uphold the faithful worship of God in our mission to our church family and the Sunnyside Community.

VISITATION OF THE SICK

Communion for the sick and shut-in is available. Please call the parish office to make arrangements.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Please call the parish office for information. Preparation classes are required for parents and godparents. Classes are held on the 1st and 2nd Thursdays of the month from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Call the Parish Office to register for the class.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Please contact a priest a minimum of six months prior to your proposed wedding date.

WELCOME VISITORS/NEWCOMERS

To register, call or come by the parish office or visit our website at: www.sfxhouston.com

**GIVE without Cash or Check
TEXT-TO-GIVE**

Text \$ amount to 281-949-7600



*Save the number as a contact in
your mobile phone for easy giving.*

MASS INTENTIONS

SAT	08/22/2026	5:00PM
Joseph & Earlene Duplechaine (D) <i>The Duplechaine Family</i>		
SUN	08/23/2026	7:30AM
<i>People of the Parish</i>		
SUN	08/23/2026	10:00AM
<i>Vivian Willis (D) – Annette Willis</i>		
TUE	08/25/2026	7:00AM
<i>Anniversary of Death for Maria Tran (D)</i> Kieunhi Nguyen		
WED	08/26/2026	7:00AM
<i>Cynthia & Robin Charles & Sons (L)</i> Cynthia Charles		
THUR	08/27/2026	7:00AM
<i>George J. Breaux (D) – Betty Burney</i>		
FRI	08/28/2026	7:00AM
<i>André Durall (D)</i> The Stephenson Family		
SAT	08/29/2026	5:00PM
All Deceased Choir Members (D) <i>Judah Choir</i>		



Kathleen Castellano-LaCroix passed away on August 13, 2026, at the age of 63 yrs. Kathleen is the sister of Petronella Doucet. A Tribute Service was held on August 19th in Tacarigua, Trinidad.

Ignatius Buckman passed away in Ghana, West Africa, on August 14, 2026, at the age of 51 yrs. Ignatius is the brother of our former Pastor, Very Rev. Michael K. Saah-Buckman, SSJ. Funeral arrangements are pending.

Widney Jones passed away on August 15, 2026, at the age of 66 yrs. A Funeral Mass is scheduled for August 29, 2026, at 10:00am.

Grace Russell passed away on August 17, 2026, at the age of 98 yrs. A Funeral Mass is scheduled for August 25, 2026, at 10:00am. Mrs. Russell will be laid to rest at Houston National Cemetery (VA) on August 26th.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



Donald Abraham, Akaycia Addison, Azielee & Nathan Addison IV, Emmoree Addison, Kayne Addison, Lauren Addison, Zaneta Addison, Mary Jane Albert, Joseph Alcendor, Vea Barksdale, Adrienne Barnes, Clara Barras, Lucille Barriere, Monica Bass, Hattie Blackmon, Ivy Bobb, Hazel S. Brown, Dylan Broussard, Tommy Burton, Jimmy Byas, Julius Cadoree, Nancy Calvin, Nathaniel Campbell, Dalton Cooper Jr, Frank Davis Sr, Marlene Davis, Dalton & Julia Dean, Joe Dixon, Mary Duplechain, Lois Epps, Paul Garrick Jr, Valerie Williams Goode, Betty Goodwin, Stella Goodwin, Beulah Hadrick, Mary Hamilton, Mason Harrison, Cheryl Henderson, Donald Henderson, Edmonia Henderson, Baby Kingsley Hernandez, Anthony Hicks, Alana Higginbottom, Diane Houston, Al Jackson Jr, Crystal Jackson, Angela Johnson, Deacon Irvin Johnson, Natalie Johnson, Brooke Joseph, Kenneth King Jr, Carolyn Richard Lablanc, Lydia & Joseph Landry, Michael LaMothe, Serral Landry, JoAnn LaSane, Barbara Laugermann, Hilary & Patricia Ledet, Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia Lewis, Eugene Mallery, Charles Martin, Shannon Martin, Donald May, Diane Miles, Cookie Mooring, Debbie Morris, Stephanie Morris, Yusuf Muwakkil, Dewaun Patillion, Angela Pena, Cynethia Pichon, Margie Pichon, Percy Pichon Sr, Robin Pichon-Mosley, Catherine Pierre, Michael Pierre, Mildred Pierre, Melody Ratcliff, Susan Rawls, Effie Rems, Alan Richard & Family, Elise Richmond, John & Christine Roberts, Wilson Robertson, Louis Robinson, Oliver Rose, Brian Russell, Grace Russell, Very Rev. Michael K. Saah-Buckman, SSJ, Kerry Samuels, Kevin Simon, Joyce Smith, Joyce Stagg, Jeffery Steptoe, Walter Strickland, Mackenzie Swanks, Kennedy Swanks, Erma Taylor, Melvin Thomas, Gemma Walcott, Patricia Williams, Terrell Wilson, Janice Woods, Alberta Zenon and all the sick and shut-in in our parish family.

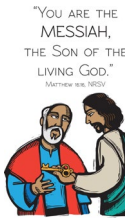
Lord, we pray for all our military service members who put their own lives on the line to protect our families and country.

Army: Sade Beck, Jacc Blanks, Wadie Troy Butler, Patrick Clay Jr, Kalah A. Guidry, Angel Guillory, LaTroy King, Essence McMillan, Gary Christian Robertson, Anthony Lamar Smith II

Navy: Alvin Balthazar, Debreanna Brown, Jermaine Ceaser, Kevin Crockett, Mason Guidry, Alexander Guillory Jr, Courtney Harris, Nia D. Hawkins-Camp, Xavier Henry, Anthony N. Russell, Robert Lee Smith

Air Force: Samuel Houston, Roderick Jones, Joshua Creeks, Joffre Lander

Marines: Reginald Ward

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Today we hear two people being given great authority. In the first reading, the LORD summons Eliakim, presenting him with the key of the House of David. In the gospel, Jesus promises Saint Peter the keys to the kingdom of heaven. From David to Eliakim to Jesus Christ to Peter to, now, Pope Leo XIV, God imparts authority to those chosen to lead us. As we listen to today's readings, let us pray that Pope Leo and all the bishops grow in wisdom and courage as they lead us, the Church, in the way of the Lord.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK**■ Sunday – August 23**

Is 22:19-23

Ps 138:1-3, 6, 8

Rom 11:33-36

Mt 16:13-20

■ Monday – August 24*Saint Bartholomew, Apostle*

Rv 21:9-14

Ps 145:10-13, 17-18

Jn 1:45-51

■ Tuesday – August 25*Saint Louis;**Saint Joseph Calasanz, Priest*

2 Thes 2:1-3, 14-17

Ps 96:10-13

Mt 23:23-26

■ Wednesday – August 26

2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18

Ps 128:1-2, 4-5

Mt 23:27-32

□ Thursday – August 27*Saint Monica*

1 Cor 1:1-9

Ps 145:2-7

Mt 24:42-51

□ Friday – August 28*Saint Augustine, Bishop,**Doctor of the Church*

1 Cor 1:17-25

Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11

Mt 25:1-13

□ Saturday August 29*The Passion of St. John the Baptist*

1 Cor 1:26-31

Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21

Mk 6:17-29



2026-2027 CCE REGISTRATION

2026-2027 CCE Registration will be accepted in the CCE Office as follows:

Monday - 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Saturday - 9:30am to 11:30am

Classes are every Monday at 6:00pm for Jr High and High School Students and Saturday at 9:30am for Pre-K and Elementary Students. Call (713) 731-2775 for additional information.

2026-2027 OCIA REGISTRATION

RCIA Classes are every Thursday at 6:00pm. The Registration Form can be found on the Parish Website:

www.sfxhouston.com



Kai Xavier White-Rosas (1yr), Kolin Xander White-Rosas (1yr) and Emma Xenii White-Rosas (4yrs) received the Sacrament of Baptism on Saturday, August 15, 2026. Their Parents are Raqai and Geraldine White; their Godparents are Jerry and Shani James. Deacon Darryl Drenon performed the Baptism.

Gold and Silver Wedding Jubilee Masses

The Office of Family Life Ministry has set the 2026 Jubilee Masses for married couples celebrating 25- or 50- year milestone anniversaries.

For couples celebrating **50 years** of marriage, the Mass will be Sunday, **September 20**, Celebrant Bishop Italo Dell'Oro, CRS; use this link for more information or to register:

<https://archgh.swoogo.com/50WAJ26>

For couples celebrating **25 years** of marriage, the Mass will be Sunday, **October 11**, Celebrant Archbishop Joe S. Vasquez; use this link for more information or to register:

<https://archgh.swoogo.com/25WAJ26>

BACK TO SCHOOL
Super BINGO
AUGUST 28, 2026
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
5102 Dabney St. Houston, Texas 77026
Doors Open at 5:30 p.m. | Games Start at 7 pm
\$20 PRE-SALE * \$25 AT THE DOOR
Tickets Available Now!!!
Deadline to purchase Pre-Sale Tickets August 26, 2026
COVERALL \$500
Concessions Available
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ST. PETER CLAVER CATHOLIC CHURCH
BINGO Night!
BINGO
12 25 41 51 63
7 18 37 60 74
3 22 44 49 67
15 28 33 57 73
9 27 45 58 62
B 12
19 60 42 71
BRING A FRIEND OR A NEIGHBOR!
COME FOR THE FUN, STAY FOR THE FELLOWSHIP!
ADMISSION: PRE-SALE: \$20 AT THE DOOR: \$25
GRAND PRIZE \$500 COVERS ALL!
DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM GAMES BEGIN AT 7:00 PM
LAST DAY FOR PRE-SALE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2026
★ **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2026** ★
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6005 N. WAYSIDE DR. HOUSTON, TX 77028
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UPLIFT Her
I am calling on **100 WOMEN** from Houston churches to join me!
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026
THE COLLECTIVE
12401 Post Oak Rd. Houston, TX
LET'S SHOW UP, & UPLIFT HER!
SHARON ZENON
FAITH BASED COMMITTEE
HER WELLNESS IS HER POWER
• FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS • WELLNESS RESOURCES • SISTERHOOD

Did you know that Catholics can make an Act of Spiritual Communion?

When unable to receive Holy Communion, pray the prayer below:

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, Come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you.

Stewardship Reflection

That in gratitude for our gifts, we may grow them and give back with increase. "Or who has given the Lord anything that he may be repaid?" - Romans 11:35 St. Paul reminds us of a central fact of stewardship. We cannot give God anything - He already owns it all. God made everything, including us. Since we are made in His image, we too, are called to be generous. How we use our God-given gifts becomes our gift back to Him. Gratitude for all we have been given opens our hearts to joyful generosity! And, through our generosity, we just may be the answer to someone else's prayer.

IN THE ONE, WE ARE ONE
IN ILLO UNO UNUM
SCAN HERE TO MAKE A GIFT

As of August 18, 2026:

Goal - \$79,872.00

Paid - \$17,477.00

Owed - \$62,395.00

Donors - 80

Through DSF, we live out the truth **In the One, We are One**, sharing His mission to bring hope, healing, and love to all who turn to the Church. Each gift joins with others to make Christ's mercy visible in our parishes, schools, and ministries.

Visit <https://www.archgh.org/dsf/>

Donate at <https://archgh.org/dsf#donate>

ATTENDANCE

In-person Mass attendance on Saturday, August 15th and Sunday, August 16th was **481**. The 7:30am Mass Livestream on Sunday received **87** views. Please join us via YouTube Livestream or bring a friend to come and worship with us in the church.



Some reflections inspired by online copyrighted commentaries and homilies

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle A)

We know from our own experience how difficult it is to get to know someone, even someone whom we have been around or with whom we have lived for a long time. We may think we know someone well and then we may suddenly discover something important about them that we had never suspected. Each of us is something of a mystery. We are all made in the image and likeness of God, and, in this morning's second reading, Paul is very aware of the profound mystery that is God. St. Paul, tells us, 'Who could ever know the mind of the Lord?' We each reflect something of the mystery that is God. If that is true of each of us, it is even truer of Jesus, who was the perfect image of God. His own disciples, those who spent time with him, struggled to come to know him, and only began to grasp him after his resurrection and the coming of the Spirit.

In today's gospel reading, Jesus addresses two questions to his disciples. The first question was easy for his disciples to answer, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' We could probably give our own answer to that question, without too much difficulty too. We could at least make a guess at what other people are saying about Jesus. However, the second question Jesus asks his disciples is a more probing one, 'But you, who do you say I am?'

This question asked is very personal to the disciples and is asked very personally to each one of us. This is a more subjective question to answer than Jesus' question to Martha, 'Do you believe this?' It does not lend itself to a 'yes' or 'no' answer. Who do I say Jesus is? That question requires some thought before we answer it. It is a question that invites one to reflect on my image of Jesus. Who is Jesus for me? What role does he play in my life?

This question can give rise to different answers at various times in our lives. It depends on our relationship with the Lord at the time. How we answered that question as children is different to how we might answer it as adults. How we answer it in old age may differ from how we answered it in middle age. Our relationship with the Lord can change over the course of our lives. There may be times in our lives when he is a very marginal presence. Then there may be other times when he is very central to our lives. I often reflect on the words of a song I like, 'Jesus, you are the centre of my joy, all

that's good and perfect come from you'... We may aspire to making the Lord the centre of our lives, but he can get pushed aside for a whole variety of reasons and sin on our journey to salvation.

When Jesus asks the question, 'Who do you say I am?' of the disciples, Peter came forward and answered it on behalf of the others, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God?' At this time in Peter's life, Jesus was at the centre of his life. However, very soon Peter drifted from the Lord. He did not keep watch with him in the garden of Gethsemane; he publicly denied any relationship with Jesus in the courtyard of Pilate; he deserted Jesus in the hour of Jesus' passion.

In today's gospel reading, when Jesus addresses Peter as the rock on which he will build his church, he must have known that Peter was a very flawed human being. Yet, he entrusts him with great responsibility. The image of 'keys' suggests authority and the language of 'binding and loosing' suggests a teaching authority. Peter is given a special responsibility for interpreting the teaching of Jesus for the whole church and in doing so to help open up doors to the kingdom of God for all. Peter went on to show himself to be anything but rock-like in his commitment to Jesus. Yet, Jesus remained faithful to him. As risen Lord he renewed Peter's role as chief shepherd of the church. Although Peter's relationship with Jesus had its difficulties, Jesus' relationship with Peter remained constant. Although Peter was often faithless, Jesus was always faithful.

The way Jesus related to Peter reveals something important about his relationship to each one of us. How we relate to the Lord can change as we go through life. His role and influence in our lives can vary greatly from one stage of our lives to another. How the Lord relates to us does not change over time. His love for us is constant and faithful. In the words of today's psalm, we can all say, 'Lord, your Love is eternal'...I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with all my heart.'

Because the Lord looks on us with the eyes of love, he can see the good we are capable of doing. No matter how we answer the question, 'Who do you say I am?' the Lord has a loving purpose for our lives. He calls each of us in our own way to be a rock on which others can rely, to be good shepherds to one another, to help open doors to the kingdom of God for one another. To be a disciple of Joy for others.

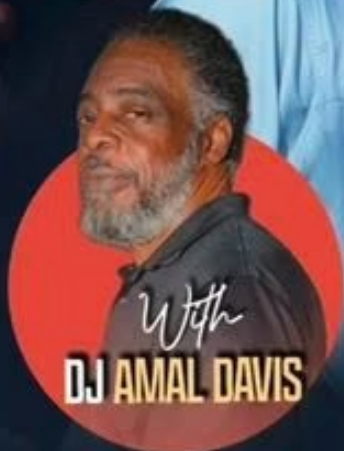
ST. PETER CLAVER CATHOLIC CHURCH HOUSTON ANNUAL

FALL

Bazaar

Featuring
**CURTIS POLLARD
& CREOLE
ZYDECO BAND**
OCT 11 | 1P-3P

Featuring
**STEP RIDEAU
& THE ZYDECO
OUTLAWS**
OCT 11 | 5P-8P



With
DJ AMAL DAVIS

Family Event

FOOD • RAFFLE • SUPER BINGO • KIDS ZONE • VENDORS

SAT//OCTOBER 10
5:00P-8:00P

SUN//OCTOBER 11
12:00P-8:00P

ADMISSION

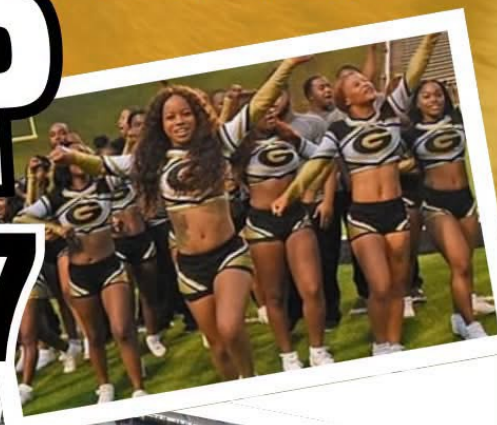
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NOVEMBER 8, 2026



**TIME:
2 PM - 7 PM**



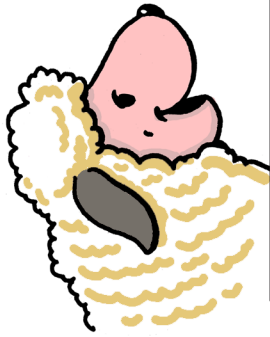
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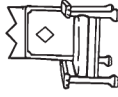




Jesus said He would give Peter "keys." What were these keys to?

Write the name for each picture.

Then place the letters in boxes on the lines below.



Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 7+

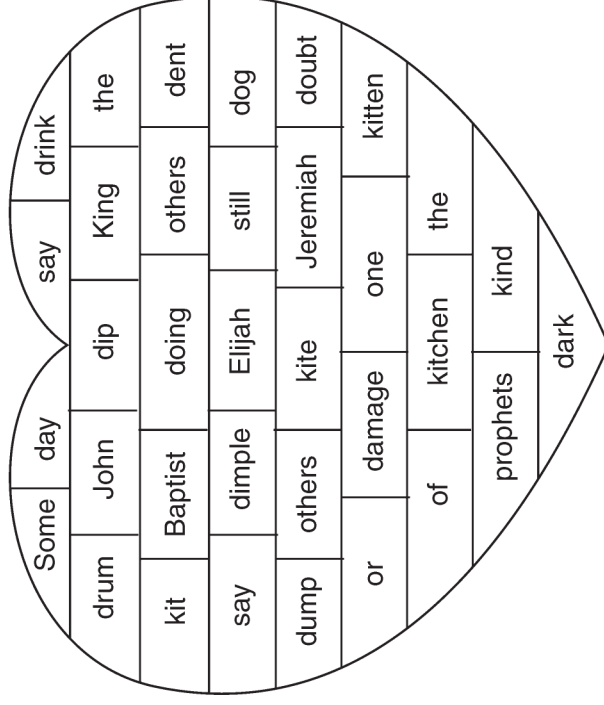
August 23, 2026 • Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus Is the Son of God

Jesus asked the disciples,

"Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

Cross out every word that starts with "d" or "k."
Write the remaining words on the lines below.



" _____ ;

_____ ;

_____ ;

_____ ;

_____ ;

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SECRET CODE
YXGXF4

What else happened?



Fill in the missing vowels.

u a a o u o u e a e o o o u a l a i o e e a e e o u a e e i e o o e i i o

“B _ t wh _ t _ b _ _ t y _ _ ?”

J _ s _ s _ sk _ d. “Wh _ d _

y _ _ s _ y _ _ m?”

S _ m _ n P _ t _ r _ nsw _ r _ d,

“Y _ _ _ _ r _ th _ Chr _ st,

th _ S _ n _ f th _

l _ v _ ng G _ d.”

How did Jesus respond to Peter?

Going from left to right, write all the 1-words in order.
Then return to the top and write all the 2-words in order.
Then return to the top and write all the 3-words in order.

1 Blessed	2 but	3 Peter	1 are	2 by
3 and	1 you	2 My	3 on	1 for
2 Father	3 this	1 this	2 in	3 rock
1 was	2 heaven	3 I	1 not	2 I
3 will	1 revealed	2 tell	3 build	1 to
2 you	3 My	1 you	2 that	3 church
1 by	2 you		1 people	2 are

“ _____ , _____

_____ , _____

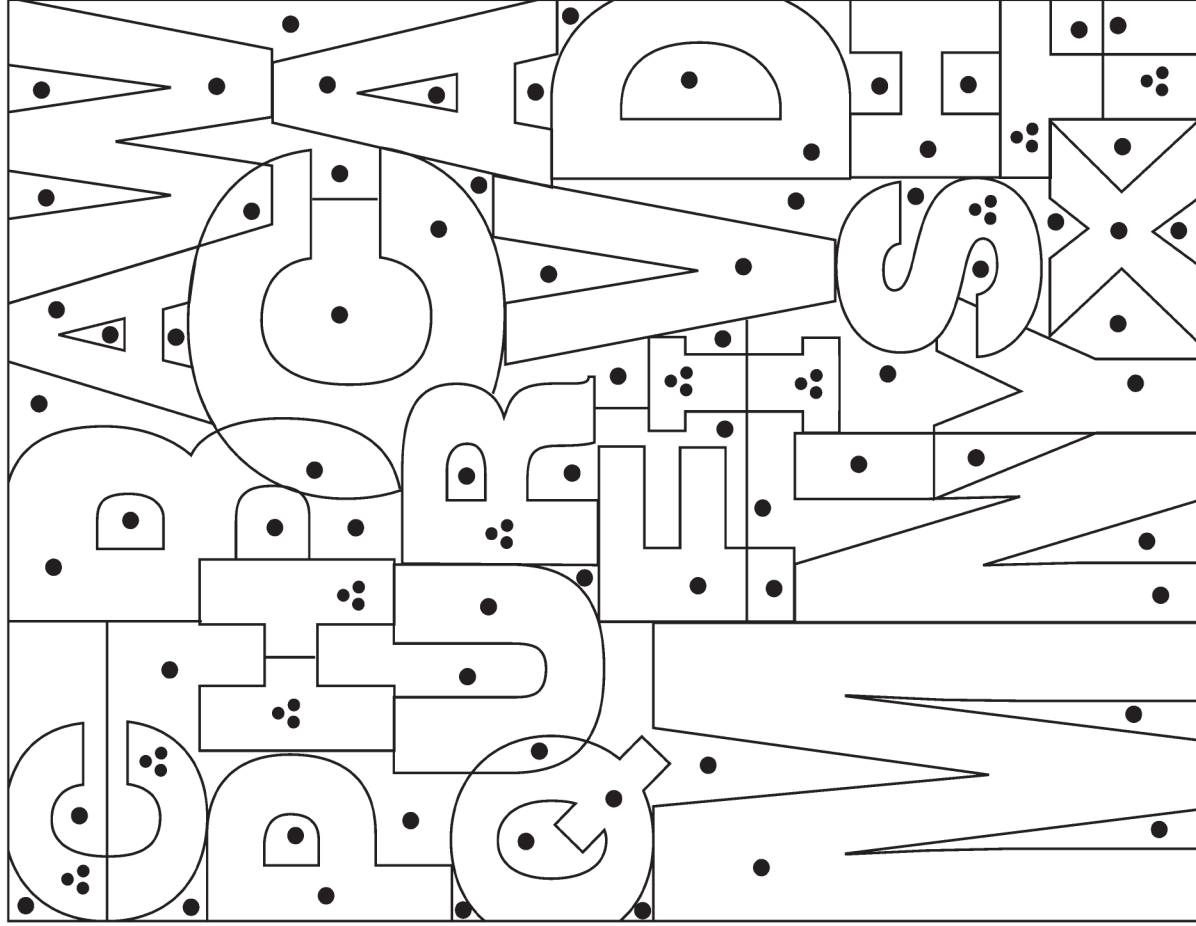
_____ . _____

_____ , _____

_____ ”.

Jesus told them not to tell
anyone who He was.

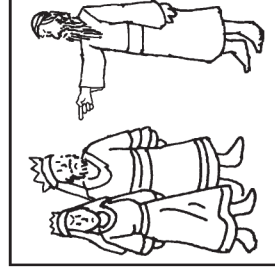
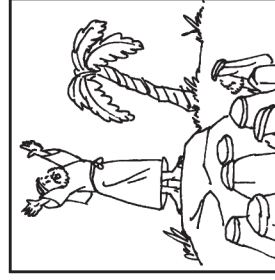
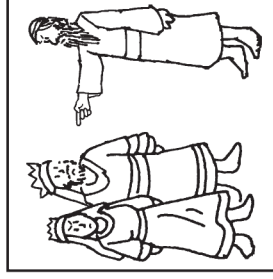
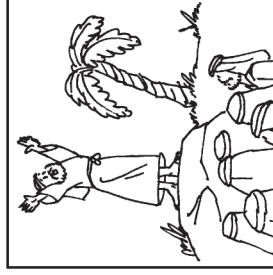
Who was Jesus? Shade in the . . .



Jesus Is the Son of God

Jesus asked His disciples, “Who do the people say I am?” They answered, “John the Baptist or Elijah or Jeremiah.”

Match the pictures.



Enter your **SECRET CODE** to unlock games @
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SECRET CODE!

RQAX12

Jesus asked His disciples, “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered Jesus correctly.

Use the code to fill in the missing letters.

$\cup$ = 
 $\cap$ = 
 $\oplus$ = 
 $\otimes$ = 

What did Peter say?

人”

R	TH
	
	

S_N F G_D.

Jesus blessed Peter.

Find and count the hidden keys and locks.

5 or 6 ?  5 or 6 ?  6 or 7 ?





Mark Gibson
PRESIDENT & CEO



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Herman J.
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Justin Mabrie

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