



Friends of Jesus and Mary
Amigos de Jesús y María



Florida Center for Peace

Friends of Jesus and Mary

Cycle A - XX Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 22, 19-23; Psalm 137, 1-2a. 2bc-3. 6 y 8bc; Romans 11, 33-36; Matthew 16, 13-20

The Primacy of Peter

Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Reflection

Jesus was in Caesarea Philippi, a place away from the city; he wanted to be alone with his disciples. Jesus then asks them, "And you who do you say that I am?". Jesus expected a precise answer from the men who were always with him. However, **the only disciple who answered clearly and without hesitation was Simon Peter** - who said that Jesus was indeed the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Jesus knew that this answer did not come from himself, but from God (Holy Spirit). Jesus then decides to give a new name and calls him Peter. **Peter means "Stone"**. God had changed the names of various prophets like Abraham, Jacob, to grant them a mission. **What is the mission that Jesus gives Peter?** Jesus tells Peter that he will be the Stone on which his Church will be built. Peter is the visible head of a community that wants to live with Jesus forever and has a special characteristic: The powers of hell will not prevail over it. In other words, this community (the Church) will succeed. **What else does Jesus give Peter?** He gives him the keys to the Eternal Kingdom of Jesus. This indicates that Peter is given the authority to help people enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Peter was the first Pope, the head of our Church, who watches over our salvation, inspired by the Holy Spirit and aided by Priests and Bishops throughout the world. When Peter dies these keys would then pass on to another earthly successor which today is Pope Francis. **And for you, who is Jesus? Where can you find him? How can you know him better and love him as Peter did?**



Activity

On the next pages, select an activity to talk about the Primacy of Peter.

Prayer

Oh Jesus, you wanted the church to be constructed under the direction of Peter, the first Pope. Please bless our Pope Francis so that he may always be guided by the Holy Spirit and guide us to heaven. Take care of him and protect him always. Amen.

Song: You are Peter, Catholic Songs for kids, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Z1Dx2ZBMgY> (3-7 yrs.)

Peter's Song, Michael O'Brien, <https://youtu.be/xznM-v8fkYI?si=pBCylzVTi6NuDH9O> (8+ yrs.)

PPT: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1dg3c7ICaLZ-TBCIPT2ZQdUeETy0FbQ5e/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=115268475267556305384&rtpof=true&sd=true

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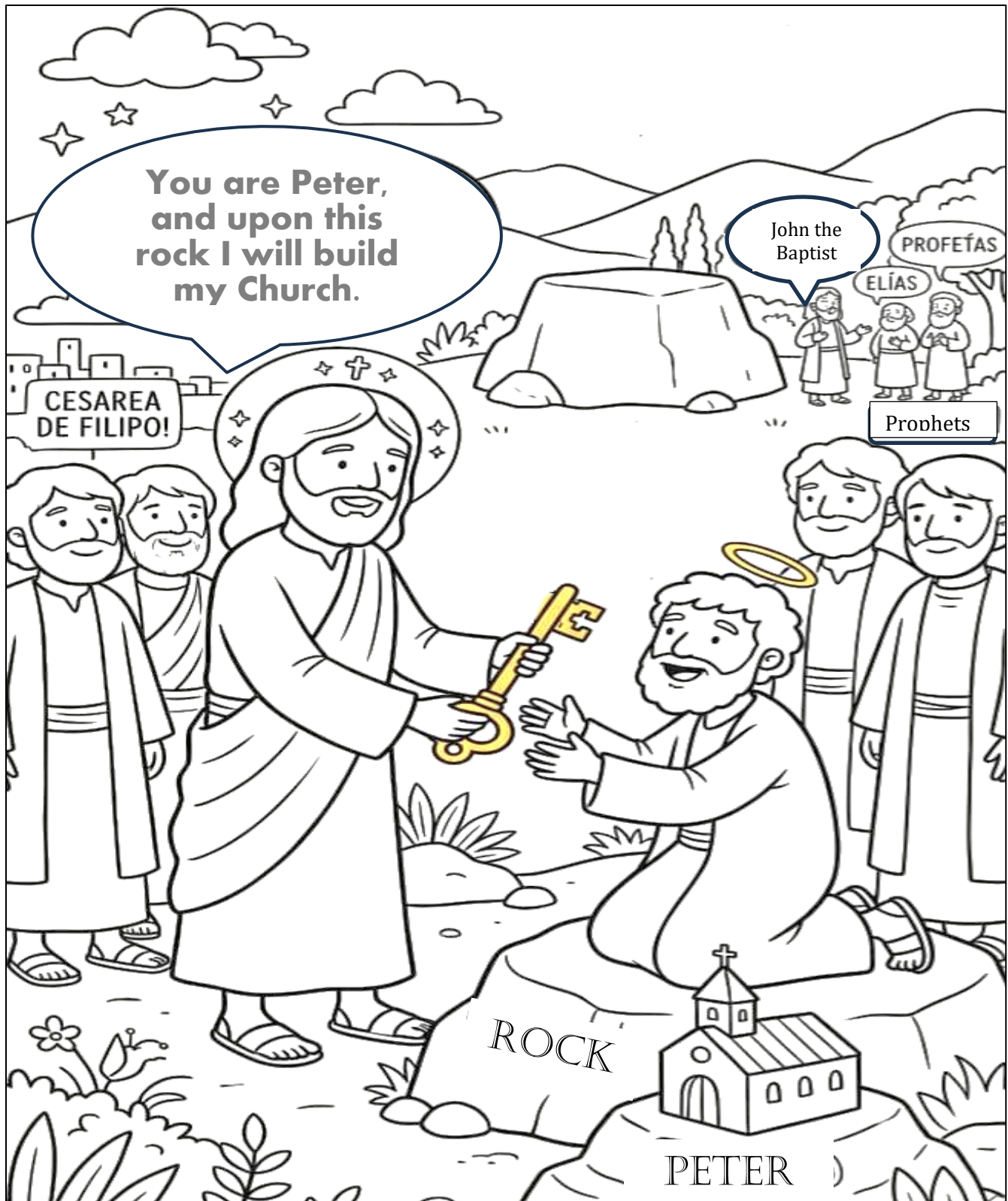


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Connect with an arrow the image that answers the question in the left column.

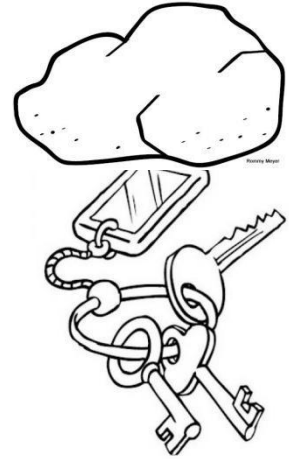
a) Who answered Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?"

b) What does Peter mean?

c) What did Jesus give Peter?

d) Who is Peter's successor today in our church?

e) What did Jesus build upon the rock?



CHURCH



Peter

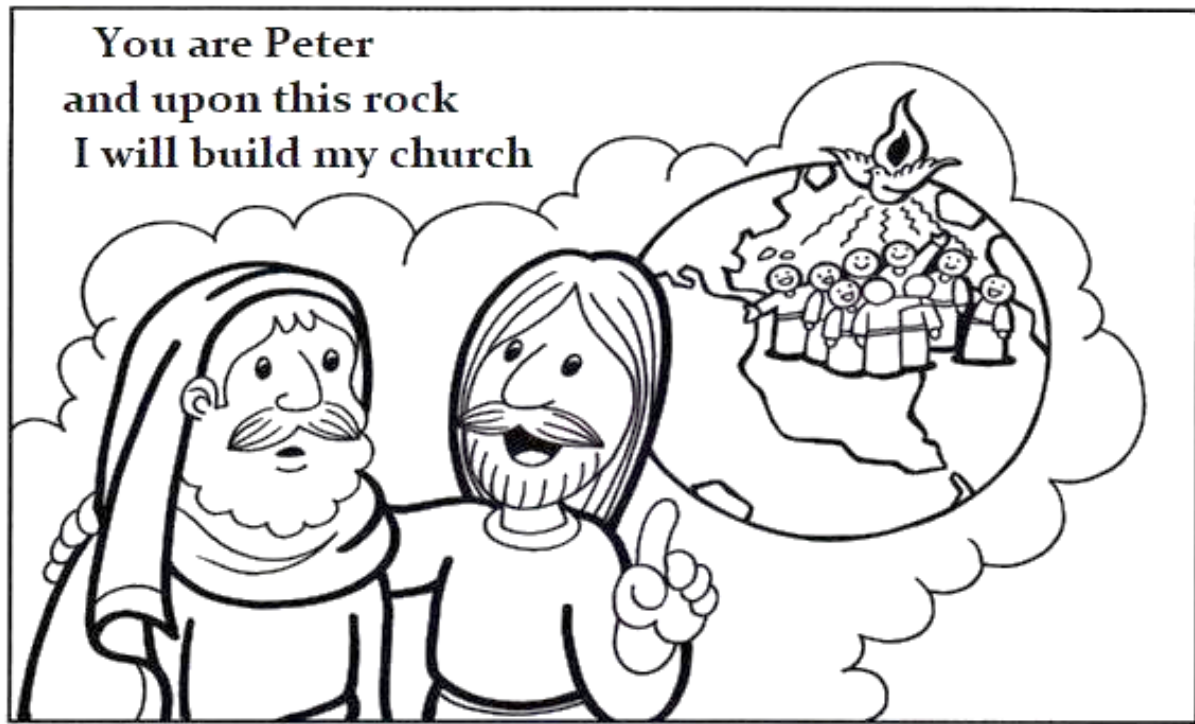


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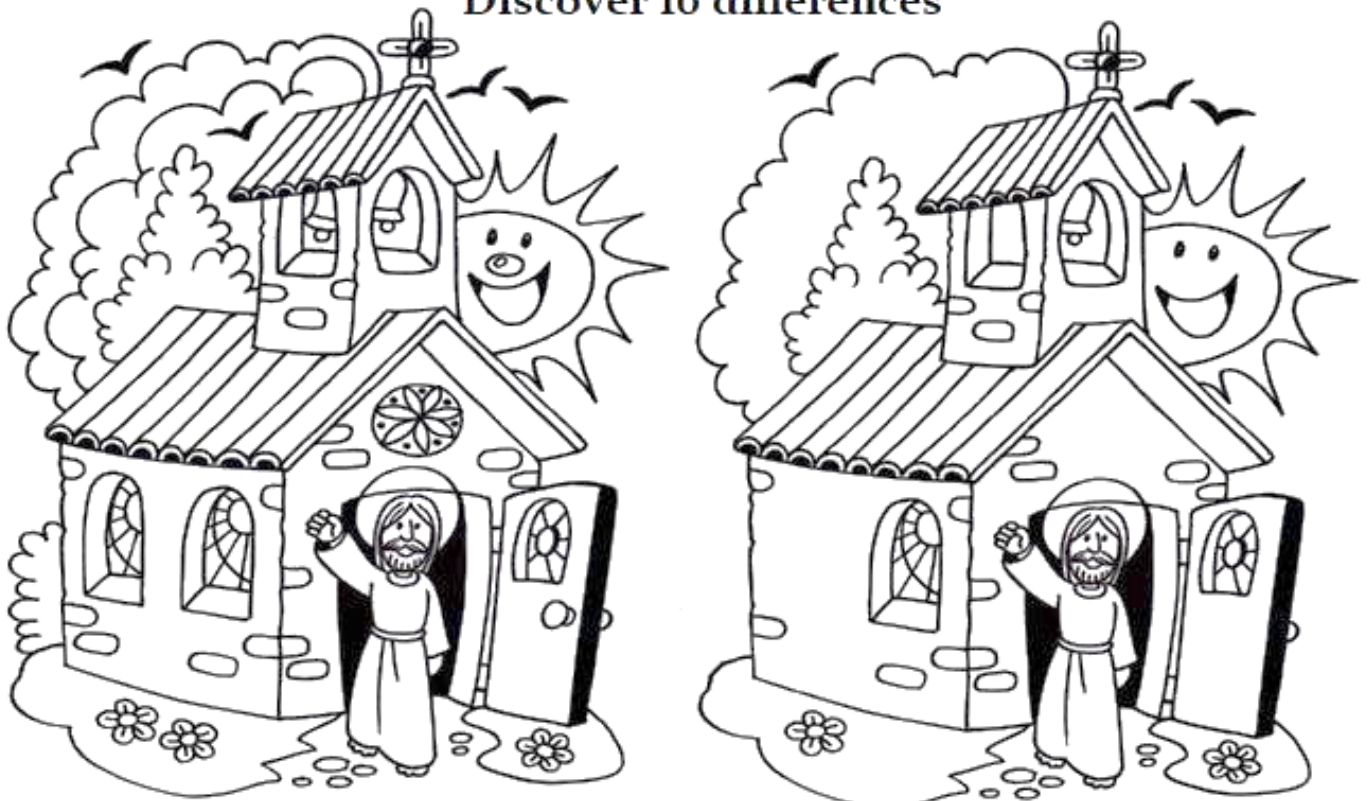


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Matthew 16, 13-20



Discover 10 differences



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