

THE LEAP (Matthew 16:1-28)

CONNECT—Think of a fun-icebreaker question to ask. For example, if you could be the leader of any country on the planet, which country would you choose and why?

DISCUSS

What most stood out to you from Justin's sermon this past week? What was one of your big takeaways?

Read Matthew 16:1-12

What stands out to you about these verses?

Why do you think the Pharisees wanted Jesus to give them a sign? Are there ways we can act like the Pharisees?

Jesus says, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees ..." What are some ways that we might be tempted to live like Pharisees? What is so appealing about living like a Pharisee? Why should we not live like a Pharisee?

Read Matthew 16:13-28

Tell the story of when you first took the leap to confess that Jesus is the "Christ, the Son of the Living God."

How have you found that following Jesus is different and better than you expected?

What does it practically look like for us to deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow Jesus? Why is this sort of life better than a life of comfort? What is one way that you are going to trust the Lord to die to yourself this week?

What are some of the eternal rewards that Christians can look forward to on the new earth? Which of those rewards are you most excited about? How do those rewards motivate you to follow Jesus more wholeheartedly now?

RELATE—Consider splitting into guys and girls for this section.

What has been your biggest spiritual highlight this week? What has been your biggest spiritual struggle this week? What is one action step that you are going to take this week in light of this discussion?

IMPACT (Invite, Engage, Share)

Who is one person that you are going to invite to church next week?