

Hope Presbyterian Church
Sermon-Based Bible Study

March 8, 2026

“Praise the Mount”
#3 in the series
Wandering Heart:
Figuring Out Faith With Peter

Scripture Text
Matthew 16:13-20 (NLT)



1. What stood out to you about the message?

2. Read Matthew 16: 13-14.

Well into his teaching and healing ministry, Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

- Why do you think He was interested in knowing who the local people thought he was?
- Why might the people have not yet considered Jesus to be “in the company” of the prophets the disciples mentioned, even though the popularity of his teaching was growing?

3. Read Matthew 16: 15-16.

Jesus directed the same question to his disciples, “Who do you say that I am?”

- Why is it not surprising that Peter spoke up to answer on behalf of the disciples?
- Why do you think Peter so confidently identified Jesus as the Messiah?

4. Read Matthew 16:17.

- How do you think Peter responded when Jesus acknowledged that his clarity of understanding came from God?
- Have you ever experienced a time when God enlightened your understanding of what He wanted to do or be? What happened?

5. Read Matthew 16:18-19.

Jesus bestowed a new name on Peter and declared He would build the church upon Peter’s understanding of who Jesus is as the Son of God.

- Why is it significant that Jesus chose the name that means Rock?
- How do you imagine Peter responded in that spiritual mountain-top moment?
- What mountain-top moment has sustained you when you’ve found yourself in a valley of despair, uncertainty, or fear?

6. Read Matthew 16: 20.

- Why do you think Jesus told the disciples not to tell anyone that He was the Messiah?

7.. How can we pray for you?