


PROPER 17: STUMBLING BLOCKS

THE STORY: MATTHEW 16:21–28



Now that the disciples understood that Jesus was the Messiah, Jesus told them what was going to happen. He let them know that he would suffer, be killed, and raise up again on the third day. Peter could not believe what he was saying and told Jesus that they could not let this happen. But Jesus told Peter, “Get out of my way, you are a stumbling block and do not understand.” Then Jesus told his disciples, “Anyone who wants to follow me must let me lead them. You must leave behind what you usually do and follow what I tell you. Do not run from what is ahead of me, rather embrace it. Follow me and I will show you the way. You have to leave your way behind and follow my way in order to truly be a disciple. I promise, there will be great reward at the end.”

YOUNGER CHILDREN

I wonder what your favorite part of the story is?

- I wonder what questions you may have about the story?
- Jesus was teaching his disciples what it meant to follow him. I wonder how we follow Jesus today?



OLDER YOUTH



being a rock, Peter is a stumbling block. What do you think Jesus meant by

what might be stumbling blocks for us? I wonder what gets in the way of us Jesus?

what you have to leave behind in order to more fully follow Jesus?

teaching his disciples what it meant to follow him. I wonder how we follow Jesus

ACTIVITIES

Play “Simon says” replacing the phrase with “Jesus Says.”

Play “Follow the leader”: by replacing with “follow Jesus”

“Stumbling Block”: On separate sheets of paper, record what you would leave behind to become a disciple.” Then, select your top three and write them on a small block of wood.

