

## Family Worship at Home. September 12<sup>th</sup> 2021

### Mark 8:27-29. Who is Jesus?

*Message: Supplies: A brown lunch bag and something to put inside the bag. I suggest something that feels pretty generic but then has something specific inside of it – like a box of pencils or a box of tic-tacs. The idea is to make the guessing harder (when feeling the bag). Then staple the bag shut.*

I have an item in this bag here [put paper brown bag with item in it in front of you]

Just by looking at that bag – without looking inside of it or touching the bag – I'd like you to tell me what you think the item is that is INSIDE the bag.

OK, now I'm going to pass the bag around. As you can see, the bag is stapled shut. Do not open it. But go ahead and feel with your hands what is inside of the bag.

Do any of you have new guesses as to what is inside the bag?

OK – now I'm going to open the bag so that you can look inside of it – and then you can tell me if you have any new guesses as to what's inside the bag.

So...what do you think? Did your guesses change as you learned more about what was inside the bag? (yes)

And did your guesses get closer to the right answer the more you learned about the item inside the bag? (yes)

In today's Bible reading, Jesus asks the disciples a question like the one I just asked you.

But instead of asking his disciples, "Tell me what's in this bag." Jesus asks them, "Tell me who other people think I am."

The disciples give all sorts of answers (He's a prophet! He's John the Baptist! He's Elijah!) because there were lots of people who didn't know very much about Jesus.

That sounds a lot like the first part of our activity, right?

Those guesses about Jesus sound a lot like we sounded when we were guessing what was inside the bag without ever looking inside of it.

Jesus then asks the disciples, "Who do YOU think I am?"

And, because the disciples had been spending lots of time with Jesus and learning from him, they had answers that were closer to being correct.

It's like the disciples had spent the time and effort to figure out what was inside the bag instead of just guessing.

Today's story is a good reminder to us that learning the answer to the question, "Who is Jesus?" is not something we learn quickly or from a distance.

It takes time and investigation to learn about who Jesus is.

Here are some of the ways we learn who Jesus is:

By going to worship on Sunday mornings

By reading and talking about the faith stories that are about Jesus in Sunday school.

By reading a Bible story each day with our families and then talking about it after we read it.

When we do these things, we are being like the disciples, who learned about Jesus by learning from him.

The more we learn about Jesus and from Jesus, the more we learn how to receive and share God's love, just like Jesus did.

And that's the good news for today. Let's pray.

[Mark 8:27-38 Children's Sermon \(rfour.org\)](#)

*The children in this clip say who they think Jesus is. Before watching the clip write down all the things that you can think of when you are asked "Who is Jesus?"*

[Who is Jesus?: A Bible Story for Children - YouTube](#)

**Clips:** [God's Story: Jesus - YouTube](#)

**Songs:** [Jesus is the King ruler over everything - with lyrics - YouTube](#)

[Hillsong Kids – One Way \(Lyric Video\) - YouTube](#)

[My God is so big and so strong and so mighty song - YouTube](#)

**Activity:** Print out this circle craft which shares all the I AM'S that Jesus said he is.

[jesus-i-am.pdf \(wordpress.com\)](#)

Jesus is paper chain: write down all the things that you say Jesus is on strips of paper. Glue/tape them together to make a paper chain to hang in your house. When you think of something else you can add it to your chain.