

Women's Bible Study
Discussion Questions

Matthew 16

1. After re-reading Matthew 12:38-40, describe why the Pharisees and Sadducees ask for a sign from heaven? Why does Jesus refuse to give them the sign they are looking for?

2. In contrast to its use in Matthew 13:33, "leaven" is used here as a negative metaphor for how evil enters something and corrupts what is good. Define what "the leaven of the Pharisees" is. What specific warning does this offer us in our personal faith walk? What warning does it offer to churches?

3. What does Peter confess about Jesus in verse 16? Given the popular messianic expectations of the day, what is amazing about this statement? How does Jesus respond to Peter's declaration? What role does Jesus carve out for Peter in the church?

4. After being praised for his response to Jesus' question in verse 15, Peter is strongly criticized for being a "hindrance" in verse 23. Why does Jesus rebuke Peter so strongly? Why does Jesus equate Peter with Satan?

5. Describe in your own words the paradox in verses 25-27. How does Jesus' teaching build on Peter's response (in verse 22) to Jesus' revelation of His death? Describe one practical thing that you do to deny yourself daily, take up your cross and follow Jesus.