

Here are a few questions to guide your group's discussion of Matthew 16:13–20 and Matthew 18:15–20.

- What is Peter's "confession"? When Jesus responds in 16:18 by saying, "On this rock I will build my church," what does he mean? What does it mean that the "gates of hell shall not prevail against" Jesus' church?
- Jesus tells Peter, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven" (16:19). What does that mean? How do you know it doesn't mean Peter can decide who is saved or not?
- Jesus says, "whatever you bind..." (16:19) in the context of Peter's confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah. The next reference to this phrase comes in the context of confronting a brother or sister in their sin (18:15–20). How does this expand our understanding of what exactly "binding and loosing" are?
- The keys of the kingdom are a reflection of the authority God has given his church to protect the holiness of its doctrine and way of living. Read Matthew 28:18–20. How does the Great Commission reflect the Gospel's imperative that the church pursue holiness?
- What are implications of the "keys of the kingdom" for the local church? How does CrossPointe protect the church's life and doctrine through membership?