

# The Turning Point

Key Word: **Messiah**

Key Verse: "He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?'" *Matthew 16:15*

One day, James Butler missed his stop. It was very unusual, for he was a person who kept strictly to the same timetable. The milkman, the postman, and the paperboy all set their time by him. "There he goes," they'd say, "we must be on time today."

On this particular day, something happened that upset James Butler's routine and caused him to miss his stop. An elderly woman sat next to him on the train, and started to talk to him. It was annoying. James wanted to read his paper, but the woman said, "Good morning."

James was surprised, but as he listened she began to reveal her entire life story to him. James found himself reluctantly listening. As she talked on, telling him about her childhood some eighty years ago in a remote part of Africa, James became fascinated. She spoke with such love about the people she'd known as a child, and tears came into her eyes as she compared the past to those people now living in hunger and the threat of violence always near.

James had seen pictures on the news of starving people and had felt sorry for them. He'd even occasionally sent some money for them. But it had never really struck him before that they were real people with homes and families and friends.

He noticed a strange feeling in his heart as the woman spoke. Just after that,

he realized he'd missed his stop. He leapt to his feet, excused himself briefly, and jumped off the train at the next station. He began to walk toward his office, checking his watch and realizing that he'd probably be late for the first time ever.

He also realized that he didn't care. He passed a poster showing a gaunt, African woman holding a tiny, undernourished child staring out at him with beseeching eyes, his heart leaped within him. He calmly walked back to the station, boarded a train, and made his way to the address given on the poster.

James Butler never did return to his office. He went out to Africa and studied, then he returned to England and devoted his life to raising money to help disadvantaged people. His routine disappeared, he faced danger, he lost touch with all his friends, and he had no money for himself, but for the first time ever, he felt gloriously free and alive in a new and exciting way. He never saw the old lady again, but he never forgot her, either.

## Questions

1. Does your family help take care of a family in need?
2. What projects could your class do to help those who are hungry?

# Gospel Grams

Today's Gospel Story  
is from  
**Matthew 16:13-20**



- Crossword Puzzle
- Across
  - 1. Man
  - 4. Disciples
  - 5. Living
  - 6. Jonah
  - 8. Simon
  - Down
  - 1. Messiah
  - 2. Rock
  - 3. Heaven
  - 7. Hades

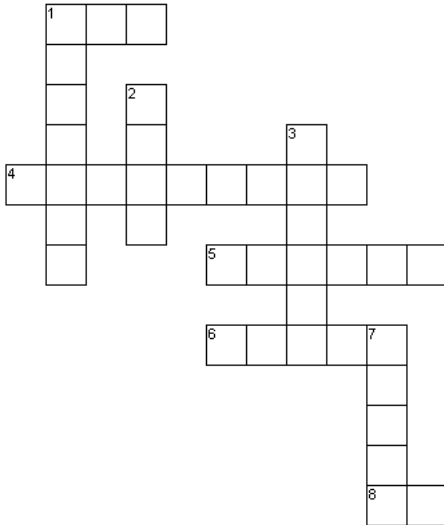
Fallen Letter Puzzle

I will give you the keys of  
the kingdom of heaven.

## ANSWERS

## Crossword Puzzle

Complete this crossword puzzle using the clues from today's Gospel story.  
Read the clues. Then fill in the squares below with the answers to the questions.



### Across

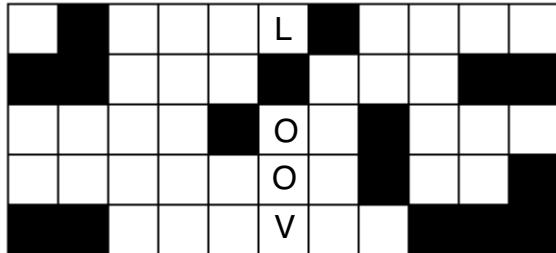
- The son of \_\_\_\_
- Jesus ordered them not to tell
- Son of the \_\_\_\_ God
- Simon son of \_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_ Peter

### Down

- Jesus is the \_\_\_\_
- Where Jesus built the church
- Kingdom of \_\_\_\_
- Will not prevail against the church

## Fallen Letter Puzzle

Place one letter from each column into the spaces above to rebuild the words.  
The phrase is a verse in today's Gospel story, Matthew 16:13-20. One column has been done for you!



Y G

W O A ~~X~~ T E

K N I U ~~X~~ E H I F

K I Y S D ~~O~~ F N T H E

I E H E L ~~O~~ M G O V E

## Square O Dots

Play this fun game with a friend. Each of you takes turns connecting two dots together. When your line completes a square, you win that square. When you win a square, either write your initial in it or color it your color. Then you get another turn! The one with the most squares wins!

