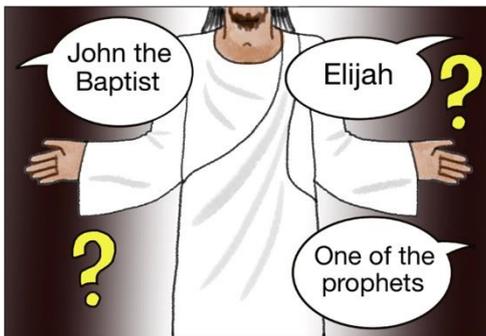


Read Mark 8.27-38

You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.

If you asked other people what you are like, what would they say? Would they mention your appearance, or your hobbies, or the way you speak, or whether you are a kind and generous person? What defines you? What makes you the person that you are?

Some people are known by their job – Bob the Builder, Postman Pat, Fireman Sam. I know that these are all characters from children’s books but I’m sure you know what I mean. We often talk of “the Dentist” or “the Vicar” or “the Plumber”. Some people even have a title that describes their job – for example, Rev for a vicar, Dr for a doctor, Prof for a professor.



In today’s reading Jesus asks his disciples what people are saying about him. He doesn’t say “Do people think I am a kind person?” or “Do people know what I do?” Jesus says “Who do they think I am?” The disciples say that some people think he is Elijah who has come back to life, or John the Baptist, or a prophet. But Peter says “No – you are the Messiah”. Do you know what a prophet is? Find out the meaning of the word “Messiah”. What would you have said if Jesus had asked you this question?

Jesus tells the disciples that he must suffer and die and then rise again after three days. Imagine how they felt when they heard this. They love Jesus and don’t want him to be hurt and die. Jesus goes on to say that anyone who follows him will have to be prepared to do difficult things and face challenges. Being a follower of Jesus will not be easy.

Are there times when you find it hard to follow Jesus? Have there been times when someone has made fun of you for being a Christian or laughed at you for going to church? We are lucky in this country that we don’t face big problems for being Christians. We can follow Jesus, go to church and worship God in the way we want to. In some countries Christians are persecuted for believing in Jesus – they have a very hard time. We should pray for Christians who face difficult situations.

Activity

- Draw or write the word “Jesus” in the middle of a large piece of paper. Each day write something that you know about Jesus. By the end of the week, you will have some answers to the question that Jesus asked “Who do you think I am?” How can you find out more about Jesus to help you add to this?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you died on the cross to show that you loved everyone.
You told your disciples that it would not be easy to follow you.
We do not always find it easy to follow you.
We commit to following you this week
and showing our love for others in what we say and do. Amen.