



Leading People into a Growing  
Relationship with Jesus Christ!

Series: Rock Classics!

Message: "On This Rock"

Scriptures: Matthew 16:18, Acts 1-2

Date: July 30-31, 2016

## Learn

If there is one thing you can expect in life, it is that time forces change. There are times when we wish we could hit the "pause" button on life to enjoy a moment or season longer, and there are times when we would rather hit "fast forward," but someone stole the remote control!

Change is God's idea. With the winds of change come anxiety for some, exhilaration for others, and an opportunity for God to do a new thing in hearts, homes, and humanity. Perhaps you need God's winds of change in your heart. Perhaps your home needs to experience a new season of love and joy. Perhaps your Life Group needs to reconnect and recommit. Antioch is always in need of God's continual renewing as the forces of the world attempt to soften and distract and dilute. Pastor John urges us to "come together and pray" so that Antioch can be all that God dreams it should be.

Referring to Peter's "Great Confession" of Jesus: "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God," Jesus said, "...upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it" (Matthew 16:18, NLT).

In the midst of changing life processes, political seasons, health situations, family balances, and cultural shifts, it is anxiety-relieving and exhilaration-building to commit yourself to what God is doing in the world. The Body of Christ, the **CHURCH**, is God's greatest and most dynamic plan in history. The **CHURCH** is the physical presence, the hands, the feet of Jesus on the earth. The **CHURCH**, if you have given your life to Jesus, is your spiritual forever-family.

Years later, Peter would write to the church in **1 Peter 2:1-5 (NLT)** says, "So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness.

You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor. And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God.



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## Live

God produces true heart change not at the macro, national or cultural level but at the individual, internal level.

Those who harden their heart and protect themselves from being hurt again often isolate themselves. The danger is that by shielding yourself from everyone, YOU become the “loudest voice in your head” and miss the pain AND the joy of connecting with others.

Would you describe your heart as hard and distrusting or soft and trusting?

If your heart has moved from hard to soft, what did God do in your life to help you trust again?

## Love

Are you blocking any of the fresh “winds” of the Holy Spirit? What are you tightly, fearfully clinging to that anchors your life down from being uplifted by these “winds” that the Holy Spirit is bringing TO and THROUGH your life?

**Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)** But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

## Lead

Pastor John encouraged us to “come together and pray” for Antioch to be what God envisions it to be. As we have seen, real change starts at the individual level. Will you commit to finding a couple of people this week to pray FOR and WITH?

## Pray!

**2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 (NLT)** So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call. May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do. Then the name of our Lord Jesus will be honored because of the way you live, and you will be honored along with him.

Take time to pray that each one in your group will have God’s POWER to accomplish the good things their faith prompts them to do!