



# Catholic Central Activity Guide

## Popes 101

### Diving Deeper

- ▶ What kinds of leaders does our society need? For what should they stand and how should they lead? Do you think the pope should have a role in our society?
- ▶ The papal Twitter account (@Pontifex) receives a lot of replies -- not all of them positive. Why do you think so many people have such a hard time with the pope and the Church? Have you ever encountered this? How can we become better facilitators of dialogue between opposing ideas? DYK one of the pope's titles is "Supreme Pontiff" meaning "bridge builder"?
- ▶ The pope has authority to make declarations on the matters of faith and morals. How do you go about putting your trust in the pope on these issues? Where else in society do we have to exercise trust? How is this similar and different to how Catholics are asked to trust the pope?

### Go Forth

- ▶ When Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI visited New York during his time as pope, he asked the young people, "What are you seeking?" Take some time to answer that question for yourself. Share with a close friend, or journal what you seek on a daily basis, and ask where your priorities are.



### Activity for Large Groups (10+)

- ▶ Take some time to reflect on leadership in our Church. **Pray** for our current pope, his responsibilities, and leadership.
  - ▶ Start by asking the question: What are your thoughts about leadership? Do you know any good leaders? What makes them good at leadership? Then explain that we want to pray for good leadership in our Church.
  - ▶ First, pray for the leadership in your parish -- priests, deacons, youth ministers, etc.
  - ▶ Next, pray for your local bishop and all bishops and cardinals, that they may be guided by the Holy Spirit.
  - ▶ Pray for Pope Francis, that he may continue to lead the Church, and we may respond to his guidance.





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### Activity for Small Groups (4-9)

- ▶ Take time to open your Bible and **read** Matthew 16: 16-19. and reflect upon the authority that was given to St. Peter in this scripture.
  - ▶ Read Matthew 16: 16-19 for the first time, and just take in the story that you are reading.
  - ▶ Read it a second time. and place yourself inside the story. Imagine what people look like, what your surroundings are, and what Jesus looks like.
  - ▶ Read this passage a third time, and imagine Jesus is giving you this authority. What are your thoughts? Are you scared? Excited? How is it to have so much authority?

### Get More

- ▶ [How does someone become Pope?](#)
- ▶ [Did you know the Pope gave a TED talk? Check it out here.](#)
- ▶ Want to know more about infallibility? Check out this [video](#) by Bishop Robert Barron of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

