



# 3

## Peter's Denial

### Key Theme

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- God is merciful toward sinners.

### Key Passages

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- Mark 14:66–72; John 21:15–17

### Objectives

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Students will be able to:

- Describe what Peter did in the courtyard the night of Jesus's arrest.
- Describe how Jesus showed Peter he was forgiven.



## Lesson Overview



### Come On In

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Students will practice the memory verse by completing the Memory Verse Review Sheet using the puzzle piece clues. If time allows, they will recite the verse to a partner or to the teacher.



### Activity 1: Peter's Denial Class Notes

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Students will fill out Peter's Denial Class Notes as you study the lesson.



### Studying God's Word

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The night Jesus was arrested, Peter followed behind Jesus and the guards to see what would happen. As Peter waited in the courtyard, he was recognized as one of Jesus's disciples. Peter denied knowing Jesus three times in a row that evening because he was afraid. When he realized what he had done, he wept and was sorry. Later, after the Resurrection, Jesus appeared to Peter, and Peter was able to tell his Lord that he loved Him! Three times Jesus asked if Peter loved Him. Three times Peter answered yes! Jesus forgave Peter and commissioned him as a leader in the church.



### Activity 2: Truth Be Told Review Game

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Students will review the lesson by playing the Truth Be Told Review Game.

# Lesson Preparation

## WHAT YOU WILL DO

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED



### COME ON IN

- Print the Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Review Sheet for each student



### PETER'S DENIAL CLASS NOTES

- Print one Peter's Denial Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- Peter's Denial Class Notes for each student
- Peter's Denial Answer Key
- Pencils



### STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Print, collate, and staple the Scripture Scripts from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Two Scripture Scripts
- Student Take Home Sheets



### TRUTH BE TOLD REVIEW GAME

- Assemble the Truth Be Told Game Board found in your curriculum kit.
- Print the Truth Be Told Game Components from the Resource DVD-ROM. Keep the Truth Be Told Question Answer Key for your use.
- Cut apart the Truth Be Told Number Cards. These will determine how many spaces to move.
- OR bring in dice or a game spinner to be used to move teams around the board.
- Cut apart the Truth Be Told Question Cards.
- Bring buttons or other small items to use as game pieces for each team and poster putty for adhering game pieces to the game board.

- Truth Be Told Game Board
- Truth Be Told Number Cards OR use dice or a game spinner
- Truth Be Told Question Cards
- Truth Be Told Question Answer Key
- Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team
- Poster putty



## Memory Verse

**Matthew 28:19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

➤ **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





# Prepare to Share

## SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above with this background.

The Bible records that on the night of His arrest, Jesus was led away to the high priest and an assembly of the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes (Mark 14:53). His dear friend and apostle, Peter, was following behind at a safe distance. Peter had followed into the high priest's courtyard and was warming himself near the fire the servants had prepared (Mark 14:54). This was where Peter would soon deny the promised Messiah of whom Moses and the prophets had written (John 1:45).

Just hours before, Peter had witnessed Judas, the betrayer, leading a great crowd of men with swords and clubs to arrest Jesus (Mark 14:43). Peter had courageously drawn his sword to fight back—and cut off the ear of one of the men (Mark 14:47). (It is interesting to note that the doctor, Luke, is the only Gospel writer to record that Jesus miraculously healed this man's ear [Luke 22:51].)

Now, here at the fire, in the night, Peter was recognized by one of the servant girls. She accused him of having been with Jesus. But he quickly denied it. This denial was accompanied by the first of two rooster crows. Again, the servant girl saw him and charged Peter that he had been with Jesus. Once more, Peter quickly denied this charge. Later, those standing nearby looked at Peter and claimed that his Galilean speech gave him away—he WAS a disciple of Jesus. And a third time, Peter denied His Lord with cursing and swearing that he did not know the one who had been arrested. Just then Peter heard the rooster crow the second time and was reminded of Jesus's warning that Peter would very soon deny Him three times (Mark 14:66–72). And in the midst of this final denial, the Lord turned and looked at Peter (Luke 22:61).

What a look that must have been! The Master looked on His servant—the one who had declared just hours before that even if all the others left Jesus, he never would (Mark 14:29). Many believe this look was not a look of anger but of tenderness, sorrow, and pity. This loving look from Jesus brought Peter to conviction, humility, and repentance, and he immediately went out and wept bitterly (Luke 22:62).

In the next few days, Jesus would be falsely accused, crucified, and then resurrected from the grave. We can only imagine Peter's anguish as the events of the crucifixion played out, and he remembered his last

testimony about his Savior—"I do not know this Man of whom you speak!" (Mark 14:71).

Shortly after His Resurrection, the Bible tells us that Jesus appeared to the disciples on three different occasions (John 20:19, 20:26, 21:4). During the third visit with His disciples, Jesus directly addressed Peter. It is during this conversation that Jesus asked Peter to confirm his love for His Savior. Jesus did not ask once, but three times, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" (John 21:15–17). Many believe that by repeating His question three times, Jesus was reminding Peter of the three times he had denied even knowing Jesus, just days before. This time, Peter answered earnestly, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You" (John 21:15).

Jesus's response to Peter was one of forgiveness and confidence in his friend whose faith had recently faltered out of weakness and fear. This confidence was exhibited once again when, three times, Jesus said to Peter, "Feed My lambs" (John 21:15); "Tend My sheep" (John 21:16); "Feed My sheep" (John 21:17). This was no easy task Jesus had called Peter to. But Peter had once and for all verified his love and loyalty to the Lord. In return the Lord presented him with the privilege of leading others and guiding them into the spiritual truths they would continue to need after Jesus's ascension.

Peter had denied Christ three times. Jesus then gave Peter the opportunity to proclaim his love for Christ three times. After that Jesus commissioned Peter to go and "feed the lambs" three times. This charge and the responsibility that went with it left no doubt that Peter had been forgiven and restored as an ambassador for Jesus Christ.

## HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

When reading of the failings of Peter, we might be tempted to say, "How could he do that? If I had been there, I would not have denied Christ!" We ask ourselves, "How could a follower of Jesus—someone who walked with Jesus, witnessed His miracles, and heard His powerful teaching—deny even knowing Him?" Well, Peter gives us a profound lesson in the danger of self-confidence.

Peter had his moments of brilliance, like when he answered Jesus's inquiry about who He was. "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" was Peter's reply. And Jesus told Peter that it was not by his own wisdom that he knew this, but God had revealed the truth to Peter (Matthew 16:13–17). Another time, after

some hard sayings of Jesus, many of His disciples no longer followed Him. Jesus asked the twelve if they also wanted to go away. Peter replied, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (John 6:66–69).

It seems that Peter, maybe due to some of his successes, had developed a sense of self-confidence. When Jesus predicted His coming crucifixion and that His disciples would stumble, Peter proudly proclaimed, “Even if all are made to stumble, yet I will not be” (Mark 14:27–29). And when Jesus told Peter that Satan had requested to sift him like wheat, but Jesus had prayed that his faith would not fail, Peter boldly retorted, “Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death” (Luke 22:31–33). Then, when the soldiers came to arrest Jesus, it was Peter trying to prove his courage and his devotion who drew a sword and whacked off the ear of the servant of the high priest. In Peter’s mind, he was faithful and invincible. But, he was dangerously overconfident.

Just a few hours later, Peter denied knowing Jesus three times. How could this happen? This was Peter, the great leader of the apostles—the one who showed such confidence and boldness! And note that this was not just a momentary slip-up, but Peter’s denials occurred over a period of two hours. And while the first one may be excusable since he was caught off guard, the next two were most definitely deliberate and premeditated.

While we may criticize Peter for disowning his Lord, if we are honest, we must admit our own failings and our own shortcomings. We may have disowned the Lord, or shrunk back from acknowledging Him, or been afraid to stand up for our faith. And like Peter, we probably felt remorse for our failure.

There was another apostle who denied Jesus, who failed Him, who fell away. This was Judas, the one who betrayed Jesus. Judas, too, felt remorse. But he went out and hanged himself (Matthew 27:3–5). Peter, instead, wept bitterly, but his faith did not fail. He showed up at the tomb on Sunday. He was in the upper room with the other disciples. Though he failed, he was not destroyed; he persevered in faith. What was the difference between Peter and Judas? Judas was not a true believer in Jesus. Jesus called him a devil, unclean, and the son of perdition (John 6:70–71, 13:10–11, 17:12). Though Judas felt sorrow for his actions, it was not godly sorrow that leads to repentance, but worldly sorrow that leads to death (2 Corinthians 7:10). Peter, on the other hand, was a true believer. His sorrow did lead to repentance and restoration.

In Luke 22, Jesus predicted that Peter would deny Him. But Jesus also said He had prayed for Peter, that his faith would not fail. And Peter’s faith did not fail.

He stood up on the day of Pentecost and preached a powerful sermon—and 3,000 were converted. Peter continued to preach—and tens of thousands were converted in Jerusalem.

What can we learn from Peter’s denials? First of all, we must be very cautious in our self-confidence. We are human; we are frail; we are not exempt from falling into sin or from denying our Lord. The Bible warns us about misplaced self-confidence:

1 Corinthians 10:12 – “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”

Galatians 6:1 – “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.”

The second thing we can learn from Peter’s experience is that God is faithful. As Jesus prayed for Peter’s faith not to fail, so He ever lives to intercede for us: “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them” (Hebrews 7:25). As Peter was forgiven by Christ, so we, too, can be forgiven as we confess our sins: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). God has promised to continue the work He has begun in us. Paul told the believers in Philippi that he was “confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6). Praise God that those whom He predestined, called, and justified, He will also glorify (Romans 8:30)!

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



## BEFORE THE THRONE

Precious Jesus, your love and mercy are measureless. The way you loved and forgave Peter encourages me. Guard my heart and mind from the fear of man. Forgive me for the times I have been embarrassed or afraid to speak up for you. Lord, I pray my students will submit their lives to you at a young age and stand firm on the authority of Scripture. May they grow to be bold to proclaim your name even in difficult situations. Convict them of the sin in their lives. Use this lesson and Peter’s example to show them that you are merciful when we turn to you in true repentance.



## COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will complete the Memory Verse Review Sheet. If time allows, have the students recite the verse together, to each other, or to you.

*This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.*



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



## REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



## Peter's Denial Class Notes

### MATERIALS

- Peter's Denial Class Notes for each student
- Peter's Denial Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Print one class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.*

We will be completing these class notes as we study the Bible passages. Do not work ahead. We'll do it together during the class.

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete the class notes today, we will talk about Jesus's disciple, Peter, and what he did the night Jesus was arrested.



## Studying God's Word

### READ THE WORD

*Refer to Lesson 1 and 2 Lesson Theme Posters. After the last Passover dinner, Jesus was betrayed by Judas. The Jewish leaders were jealous of Him and wanted Him to die! His death was drawing nearer. God's plan had been put into motion since the beginning of time. And now, Jesus was nearing the end of His journey. His mission was almost complete.*

Jesus had been arrested in the garden and led off to the council of Jewish leaders. Remember, they came after Him with weapons, lanterns, and torches. There were officers of the army and the Pharisees—a very large

## Mark 14:66–72

► Use the New Testament History Poster included with your teacher kit as you teach the lesson. Emphasize that Jesus ministered only 3 years, and He lived only about 35 years. Yet His life changed the world forever and brought eternal life to all who believe.

group had gathered together to take Jesus away. The Apostle Peter followed behind Jesus and the crowd that night. He ended up in the courtyard, near where Jesus was being tried. That is what we will be reading about today.

Look at the first Scripture Script. We are going to read Mark 14:66–72. I'm going to assign the parts. You read when your part comes, and the rest of us will follow along. *Assign readers to be the narrator, servant girl, Peter, others, and Jesus.*

### EXAMINE THE WORD

Oh, Peter! He was wielding a sword to protect Jesus in the garden. Then a few hours later he was very different. Open your Bibles now to the same verses, Mark 14:66–72, while we answer a couple of questions.

#### Observe the Text

- ? Look back at Mark 14:66. Where was Peter? *In the courtyard.*
- ? And who else was there? *Mark 14:66. A servant girl of the high priest.*
- ? What did she say to Peter in Mark 14:67? *You were with Jesus of Nazareth.*
- ? So how did Peter answer her? *Mark 14:68. He denied it. He said he didn't know what she was talking about.*
- ? What did Peter hear after he said he didn't know Jesus? *Mark 14:68. A rooster crowed.*
- ? Yes! Someone read Mark 14:69–70a again. What happened in these verses? *Assign a reader. The servant girl again said Peter was one of Jesus's disciples, and he denied it.*
- ? And what happened a third time in Mark 14:70b? Someone read that again. *Mark 14:70b. Assign a reader. Others who were near Peter said he was a Galilean.*

The people with Peter that night seemed rather sure that Peter had been with Jesus in the past. This was the third time someone recognized him. And it was the third time he said he didn't know Jesus! In fact, he answered this third time in a different way.

- ? What did Peter do this third time after being accused of knowing Jesus? *Mark 14:71. He began to curse and swear. He said, "I do not know this Man."*
- Peter was getting angry. He did not want anyone to know he knew Jesus!
- ? Then what happened after Peter said the third time that he did not know Jesus? What did Peter hear? Look in Mark 14:72. *The rooster crowed a second time.*
  - ? What did Peter suddenly remember when he heard the rooster crow a second time? It was something Jesus had told him. *Mark 14:72. Jesus had said that Peter would deny Him three times before the rooster crowed twice.*
  - ? What did Peter do when he heard the rooster and remembered Jesus's words? *Mark 14:72. He thought about it and he wept.*

## Discover the Truth

Refer to Lesson 1 Lesson Theme Poster. Peter was one of Jesus's very best friends! He had been Jesus's trusted apostle. He had just celebrated the Passover meal with Jesus. And yet, now, when Jesus was in trouble, Peter said he did not know Him! Peter was afraid! He wanted to be near Jesus and see what was going on, but he didn't want to admit that he knew Him! After all, they arrested Jesus and took Him away. What if they arrested Peter because he knew Jesus? But as soon as Peter heard the rooster crow, he remembered. He remembered that Jesus had said that Peter would deny Him that very night. And now, as Peter realized what he had done, he went away and wept. He was sorry that he had so easily denied his Savior.

Let's do a quick review by filling in the answers of the first five statements on your class notes.

- ? Will someone read #1? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Three. Have students complete #1.*
- ? And what about #2? Someone read that please. *Assign a reader. Two. Have students complete #2.*
- ? And someone read #3 for us. What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Jesus. Have students complete #3.*
- ? And #4. What did Peter do when he remembered what Jesus had said? *Assign a reader. Away, wept. Have students complete #4.*
- ? Someone read #5. How will you finish that? *Assign a reader. Afraid. Have students complete #5.*



## READ THE WORD

Peter was afraid. He denied even knowing Jesus. But that isn't the way this evening and night ends. In the next few hours, after Peter denied Jesus, Jesus would be lied about, mocked, beaten, and killed. This was the very last thing Peter said about Jesus before Jesus was killed—that he didn't know Him! And he did that three times! He must have felt terrible . . . and very sad, because he really did love Jesus.

- ? But what happened to Jesus on the third day after He was buried in the tomb? *He rose from the dead.*

Yes! He rose from the grave. He was no longer dead. He is alive! And after He rose, He appeared to His disciples. He wanted them to know that death did not win over Him.

Let's read the second Scripture Script. This is John 21:15–17. This tells of a time Jesus came and talked with His disciples AFTER He rose from the dead. They had just eaten breakfast! And Jesus was about to talk to Peter. Let's read it from our Scripture Sheet. I need volunteers to read

the parts of Narrator, Jesus, and Peter. *Assign the parts, and have the students read through the verses.*

## EXAMINE THE WORD

Now I want you to open your Bibles to John 21:15–17. Look there as we answer these next questions.

### Observe the Text

- ? So who was Jesus talking to? *John 21:15. Simon Peter.*  
Yes! This was the first time Jesus talked to Peter since Peter had denied Him in the courtyard.
- ? And what did Jesus ask Peter? *John 21:15. Do you love Me?*
- ? What was Peter's answer? It's in the same verse. *John 21:15. Yes, Lord; You know that I love you.*
- ? Then what did Jesus tell Peter to do? Still in John 21:15. *John 21:15. Feed My lambs.*
- ? Someone read John 21:16 again from your Bible. *John 21:16. Assign a reader.*
- ? What did Jesus ask Peter in this verse? *John 21:16. Do you love Me?*
- ? What was Peter's answer? *John 21:16. Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.*
- ? What did Jesus tell Peter to do? *John 21:16. Tend My sheep.*  
Hmmm. What is Jesus doing? He is asking Peter the same question. And Jesus wasn't finished.
- ? Someone read John 21:17 again. *Assign a reader.*
- ? What did Jesus ask a third time? *John 21:17. Jesus asked Simon Peter a third time, "Do you love Me?"*
- ? And how did Peter answer? *John 21:17. Lord, you know I love you.*
- ? And what did the Lord say to Peter? *John 21:17. Feed My sheep.*
- ? Wow! What is going on? We are going to find out, but first someone tell me how you will complete #6 on your class notes. *Assign a reader. Three. Have students complete #6.*
- ? And what about #7. How many times did Peter say he loved Jesus? *Assign a reader. Three. Have students complete #7.*

? And #8. How many times did Jesus tell Peter to care for His sheep. *Assign a reader. Three. Have students complete #8.*

? It is important for us to know what Jesus was talking about when He told Peter to care for His sheep and His lambs. Who can tell me? *Allow discussion.*

Well, Jesus wasn't raising sheep at this point. But He is known as the Good Shepherd. He is the Good Shepherd over His Church and all people who believe in Him. Those who believe and trust in Jesus are His sheep. Jesus knew He was leaving His disciples very soon and going back to His Father in heaven. And He was telling Peter that now he was to teach, train, help, and love other believers. Jesus wanted Peter to care for His flock—the church. Jesus was giving Peter a big job to do with a lot of responsibility!

### Discover the Truth

Let's keep in mind that it wasn't very long before this that Peter had completely denied even knowing Jesus. Jesus had died, and Peter didn't know if he would ever talk to Jesus again. But Jesus rose from the grave, found Peter, and talked with him about these things.

? Do you remember how many times Peter denied Jesus in the courtyard? Look at #1 on your class notes if you need a hint. *Three times.*

? How many times did Jesus ask Peter, "Do you love Me?" *Three times.*

? And how many times did Jesus tell Peter to feed His sheep? *Three times.*

Peter cried after he had denied Jesus and said he didn't know Him. He had turned away from his Savior and friend three times. But when Jesus finally spoke to him again after He rose from the grave, He gave Peter a chance to tell Him three times that he really did love Him! And then, as though Jesus wanted Peter to be sure and know that all was well and he was forgiven, Jesus told Peter to go and take care of His sheep, to lead the church and the believers, to teach them to be strong in their faith.

? Will someone read #9 on your class notes? What is the answer to that? *Assign a reader. Forgiven. Have students complete #9.*

? And what about #10? *Assign a reader. Teach, lead. Have students complete #10.*



➤ If time allows, assign students to re-read the points on the class notes as a review and briefly discuss them.



# Truth Be Told Review Game

## MATERIALS

- Truth Be Told Game Board
- Truth Be Told Question Cards
- Truth Be Told Question Answer Key
- Truth Be Told Number Cards (or game spinner or dice)
- Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team
- Poster putty

## INSTRUCTIONS

*Divide your class into teams. Teams will take turns drawing a Truth Be Told Question Card. Team members will take turns answering the questions. They will quickly determine an answer and give it. If they are correct, they will draw a Truth Be Told Number Card and move that number of spaces on the game board. As play proceeds, follow the directions on the game board. Alternate between teams as long as time permits.*

We are going to review now by playing "Truth Be Told." I'll put you into teams. Teams will take turns picking a question card and answering the question. If the answer is correct, you will draw a number card and move your game piece that many spaces. All directions on the board must be followed. Place used cards underneath the stacks.

*Answers to the questions are provided on the Truth Be Told Question Answer Key on the Resource DVD-ROM.*

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

This game was a fun way to review. Congratulate the winning team.

Peter went from boldly protecting Jesus to denying three times in one night that he knew Him. Peter feared what men would do to him if he was found out. So, he denied his Lord. When he heard the rooster, Peter cried because he was sorry for what he had done. But, the gracious Lord allowed Peter to make up for his denials. Jesus came to Peter AFTER His death and Resurrection. He asked Peter three times if he loved Him, and three times Peter said, "Yes!" By asking three times, Jesus showed that He had forgiven Peter for the three denials in the courtyard. And then Jesus showed that He trusted Peter to carry on His work. He told Peter three times to feed His sheep. He was calling Peter to be a leader and a teacher in the church.



## Applying God's Word

### WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

*Refer to Lesson 3 Lesson Theme Poster.* Peter tried to stick close to Jesus after His arrest by following as close as he could without being noticed. He ended up in the courtyard where he warmed himself by the fire and waited to see what would happen to Jesus. You know what happened. When he was recognized as one of Jesus's followers, he denied it three times. He even cursed and swore saying he didn't even know his Lord. When he heard the rooster crow the second time, Peter remembered that Jesus said he would deny Him that very night. Peter wept with sorrow and went away.

Then later, after Jesus's death and Resurrection, Jesus spoke lovingly to Peter. Since Peter had denied Jesus three times, Jesus gave Peter a chance to tell Jesus three times that he loved Him.

And He gave Peter an important job. He called Peter to minister to the church. In a public way, in front of the other disciples, Jesus was telling Peter that he was forgiven, he was loved, and he was trusted with a big responsibility.

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

When Peter was with Jesus, he was strong and brave. He was a loyal friend. But then just a short time later, Peter was afraid of all the people around him. He was scared because Jesus had been taken away. Peter was afraid he might be arrested next. He was so afraid that he denied his Lord.

Now, it is safe to say that if someone isn't truly saved, he will deny Jesus when things get scary. But even someone who really does love Jesus, like Peter did, can sometimes stumble and turn away from Him.

What I mean by someone who *really* loves Jesus, is he knows and understands what Jesus did on the Cross. He understands that he is a sinner and deserves God's punishment. He hates his sin and doesn't want to sin anymore. He is sorry that his sin is the reason Jesus had to die on the Cross.

Peter was a follower of Jesus. He really loved Jesus. And yet he acted like he didn't know Jesus when things got tough. That's not good! But we're all human. In our own strength, we are weak—no matter how much we love Jesus. We can't rely on ourselves to always do the right thing. But we can rely on God. And if we go to God instead of thinking we can handle things all by ourselves, God will help us. Only God can give us the courage to do what is right! If we don't depend on Him, we are likely to deny Christ like Peter did when people start making fun of us. But if you stay in God's Word, pray, and ask God for help, it will be a lot easier!



➤ You might mention to the students that at the end of his life, Peter was arrested. But this time he did not deny Christ. Instead Peter was crucified upside down for his faith. (See the 12 Apostles Poster.)

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.



### MEMORY VERSE

**Matthew 28:19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



### GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Pray that God will open the hearts of any who don't believe in Him.
- Ask God to show us when we've sinned against Him and to ask for forgiveness like Peter did.
- Ask God to help us admit that we love Jesus and His Word even when we are afraid others will make fun of us or stop being our friend.

