

3

Peter's Denial



Key Passage

- Mark 14:67–71

Lesson Focus

- Peter said he didn't know Jesus. He was afraid.

Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will color the Pilate Coloring Sheet as a review of Lesson 2 and/or play with play dough.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the Flip Chart Prayer Page, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—When Jesus was arrested that night in the garden, the disciples ran away, but Peter followed Jesus. Later, his fear got the best of him when he denied three times that he even knew Jesus. Finally, Peter wept with sorrow; he had been too afraid to say he knew Jesus as his friend and Savior.

Song Time—Students will sing songs to help them remember the lesson of the day. Lyrics to the songs are found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.



Activity 1: What Happened? Matching Cards

Students will review this lesson and others as they play a game.



Activity 2: Peter's Path

Students will complete the worksheet by following the path of Peter from the garden to his denial.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Students will review the memory verse as they play a game and recite/sing the verse. Give them an opportunity to repeat the verse with you or say it themselves.



Applying God's Word/Snack

Students will review the lesson while enjoying the snack for the day.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO



FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.



COME ON IN

- Print one Pilate Coloring Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Provide play dough if appropriate.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- Pilate Coloring Sheet for each student
- Crayons
- Play dough
- Cookie cutters



CIRCLE TIME

- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.
- Lesson Flip Chart

- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Bible



WHAT HAPPENED? MATCHING CARDS

- Print and cut two copies of the six What Happened? Matching Cards from the DVD-ROM, preferably onto cardstock.
- If you have a large class, you may want to print more sets and divide your class into groups.

- What Happened? Matching Cards—12 cards per set



PETER'S PATH

- Print one copy of Peter's Path from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Peter's Path for each student
- Crayons



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW AND ACTIVITY

- No extra preparation necessary.

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page



APPLYING GOD'S WORD/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Lesson Flip Chart for Review
- Snacks

► As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart Page to keep the children engaged. When reading the lesson Scriptures, stand up, be enthusiastic, look at the children, and emphasize the answers to the questions you will be asking. This will help to keep the children interested.



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 shrank 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 children arrive ...

- They will color the Pilate Coloring Sheet as a review of Lesson 2.
- If there is time, they can play with play dough.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons 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 Flip Chart Pages. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs. Bring your Lesson Flip Chart, Bible, stuffed animal for prayer time, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

We start our Bible study with prayer. Let's pray. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Adoration is suggested. You might proceed this way:

Today let's say prayers of adoration—and tell God how much we love Him.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life, and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.

I'll start. Dear God, you are great and good. I love you so much because ...
(insert personal prayer).

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer telling God how much they love Him.

► Prior to making your transition to Circle Time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

► Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the Circle Time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first five questions will be repeated each week this quarter. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- ? Does God know all things? Yes. Nothing can be hidden from God.
- ? Can you see God? No. I cannot see God, but He always sees me.
- ? Can God do all things? Yes! God can do all His holy will.
- ? Where do you learn how to love and obey God? In the Bible alone.
- ? Is God's Word true? Yes! Every Word of God is true.

Bible Pass Around

► Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

► When the Bible Pass Around Activity is completed, continue with the lesson.

The following activity should be repeated at the beginning of each lesson to encourage anticipation and enthusiasm for looking into the Word of God. Use a sticky note to mark today's passage before you begin.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. *Hold up Bible.* God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number *choose a number.* You may also choose to practice the alphabet, recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity. *We'll start right here.* Hand the Bible to the first student. As we say each number (or word) you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you—remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready to start our lesson. Are you ready? Let's begin. You may want to have the student with the Bible stand next to you until it is time to open it. Continue with the lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around.

Refer to Lesson 1 Flip Chart. We have been talking about a very sad time in Jesus's life. First, Judas, who was one of the apostles, betrayed Jesus in the garden, and Jesus was arrested.

Refer to Lesson 2 Flip Chart. Then those who arrested Jesus took Him to the governor who ruled over the people. This governor's name was Pilate. Pilate thought he had power over Jesus.

- ? Did Pilate have power over Jesus? No!
 - ? Who has control of all things? God!
- The only reason Pilate had any power at all was because God gave it to him. His power over Jesus was in God's hands the whole time.
- ? Who came to save sinners from their sins? Jesus.

? Who is Jesus? *Jesus is God!*

Yes! Jesus is God! And Jesus knew Pilate did not have any power over Him. Pilate's power was from God. This was God's plan. God was in control of everything that happened to Jesus.

Refer to Lesson 1 Flip Chart. So, let's think back to when Jesus was arrested in the garden. It was night, and a lot of people came to get Jesus. They carried torches and clubs and swords. It must have been scary for the men who were with Jesus. They didn't know this was going to happen! The Bible says that all of Jesus's friends ran away; but one of them didn't run far. One followed close behind. His name was Peter! Point out Peter on the Lesson 1 Flip Chart.

Refer to Lesson Flip Chart Page. Today we are going to talk about Peter and what he did that night when Jesus was arrested. The Bible tells us that Peter was following Jesus. But he did not want the crowd to arrest him, too! So he stayed back where they wouldn't see him. He watched the people take Jesus into a house. Peter stayed nearby in the yard. He wanted to hear what was happening to his friend, Jesus.

There was a girl in the yard. And when she saw Peter, she knew he was one of Jesus's friends. Let's look in God's Word, the Bible, to find out just what happened to Peter that sad night. I am going to read from the Gospel of Mark. God wanted us to know what happened, so Mark wrote it down for us! *Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible, and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is. Show the students where the book is. Let them look at it. Carry it around your circle.*

I'm going to read Mark 14:67–68. This is something that happened to Peter right after Jesus was arrested. Listen closely! *Read Mark 14:67–68 enthusiastically emphasizing the answers to the questions below.*

? The girl saw Peter by the fire. What did she say to him? *Re-read Mark 14:67 if necessary. You were with Jesus.*

Right! The girl thought she had seen Peter with Jesus, so she said so.

? What did Peter say? *Re-read Mark 14:68. I don't know what you are saying.*

Peter acted like he didn't know what the girl was talking about. Peter was afraid. He lied and said he didn't know Jesus. Remember what just happened in the garden? It was night and Jesus had been arrested. All of His friends ran away when they saw the people come with clubs and swords. They did not understand what was happening.

? Why do you think Peter said he didn't know Jesus? *Allow discussion. He was afraid.*

Yes. Peter was afraid. He didn't want to get arrested, too. So he denied that he knew Jesus.

? What do you think the word denied means? *Allow discussion.*

Mark 14:67–68

► Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text. The children should hear God's Word and know they can answer questions from it. It is not too hard for them.

Mark 14:69–70a

To deny something is to say that it is not true. Peter denied that he knew Jesus. He said it was not true. He said he did not know Jesus because he was afraid.

After Peter talked to the girl, he walked away, but stayed in the yard. That was close! He was almost caught! Peter thought that was all done now! But listen to what happened later in Mark 14:69–70. *Read Mark 14:69–70a.*

? Who saw Peter again? *The servant girl.*

The same girl saw Peter again. This time she told the people around her that Peter was with Jesus.

? What did Peter do this time? What was that word we learned? *Re-read Mark 14:70a. He denied it.*

Right. Peter denied it. He said he was not with Jesus.

? Why did Peter say that? *Allow discussion. He was afraid.*

I think Peter was afraid. Peter loved Jesus very much, but he didn't want to get in trouble. And he didn't want to be arrested like Jesus had been!

Even though Peter was almost caught, he still stayed in the yard so he could hear what was happening to Jesus. A little later, someone else said he must be a friend of Jesus. Listen to what Peter told them. It is in Mark 14:71. *Read Mark 14:71 emphasizing "I do not know this man."*

? What did Peter say? *I do not know this man!*

Peter must have been really afraid! He loved Jesus! Peter was Jesus's friend! But he didn't want to be arrested, too. So he began to say terrible things that a friend would not say. Peter thought that if he said these bad things then people would believe his lie. They would believe that Peter really was not Jesus's friend. That night Peter said three times that he did not know Jesus. Peter was afraid.

? Did Peter know Jesus? *Yes!*

The Bible tells us that Peter was a very close friend of Jesus. He was one of Jesus's disciples. Peter followed Jesus and learned from Him. And Peter was with Jesus when He did miracles and taught the people. But now, Peter was afraid.

After Peter said three times that he didn't know Jesus, he remembered that Jesus said this would happen. Jesus had told Peter earlier that he would deny Jesus three times. And that is just what happened to Peter on that dark and sad night.

? Who was in control of all that happened to Jesus? *God.*

? And who was in control of what was happening to Peter in the yard? *God.*

Mark 14:71

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I think Peter was afraid. Peter loved Jesus very much, but he didn't want to get in trouble. And he didn't want to be arrested like Jesus had been!

Even though Peter was almost caught, he still stayed in the yard so he could hear what was happening to Jesus. A little later, someone else said he must be a friend of Jesus. Listen to what Peter told them. It is in Mark 14:71. *Read Mark 14:71 emphasizing "I do not know this man."*

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? Who was in control of all that happened to Jesus? *God.*

? And who was in control of what was happening to Peter in the yard? *God.*

That's right. Jesus knew that this would happen to Peter. And when Peter thought about what he did, he was very sorry. He cried because he had been too afraid to say he knew his friend and Savior, Jesus!

Peter felt really sorry for saying that he didn't know Jesus. Peter was afraid.

But who was still in control over everything? God.

SONG TIME

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Let's start by singing our memory verse. Jesus wants us to tell everyone we meet about Him! So let's sing this song about Jesus calling us to go! Sing the Memory Verse Song two or three times.

Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page. Jesus is God. He has the power to give everlasting life. He came to save sinners. When sinners turn to Jesus, He promises to clean their hearts from sin and make them new inside. Let's sing, "Clean My Heart." Sing together.

Jesus is our Lord and King, and we want to praise His name! He is with us everywhere! The Bible teaches that God is with us, so we have no reason to worry or fear! Let's sing "We Gather All Around." Sing together using hand motions.

Repeat songs as time allows. You may want to add hand motions, stomping, marching, or instruments.

► Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page and Flip Chart Memory Verse Page during this part of the lesson.

► Lyrics can be found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.



What Happened? Matching Cards

MATERIALS

What Happened? Matching Cards—12 cards in a set

INSTRUCTIONS

Print and cut two copies of the What Happened? Matching Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM onto cardstock. If you have a large class, print enough copies for groups to play. Lay the cards out on the floor or a table. Have students take turns choosing two cards and turning them over to see if they match. When someone does get a match, ask the class simple review questions about the person on the cards, such as, Who is this man? What did he do? What did he say? Refer to the text on the cards.

Depending on the size of your class, you may want to divide the class into teams or allow the whole class to play together.

I have big cards with pictures of the people we've been talking about. We will place

the cards face down on the table (or floor). Then we'll take turns choosing two cards to try and find the matching cards. If you find two cards that match, you'll get to tell us something you've learned about who is on the card.

Repeat play if time allows.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

The Bible tells us what happened when Jesus was arrested. It tells us about Judas. He betrayed Jesus and told the crowd where to find Him. Then Peter denied that he knew Jesus because he was afraid. Later Peter was very sorry. And we talked about Pilate, the governor. He thought he had power and control. But only God is in control of everything!



Peter's Path

MATERIALS

- Peter's Path for each student

INSTRUCTIONS

Print one sheet for each student. Guide students to follow the path as you review at each picture point. Then color the pictures.

We have a sheet that shows some of the things Peter did the night Jesus was arrested. Use your crayon to follow the path to each picture as we talk about what happened. Put your crayon near the first picture. *Have students start at the picture of Peter.*

Have students move crayons to the next picture. Peter was a good friend to Jesus. He went with Jesus while He prayed in the garden. He stood up for Jesus when Judas came and betrayed Him. And when the other disciples ran away, Peter didn't run. He followed Jesus to see what would happen to Him.

Have students move crayons to the next picture. But when a girl started saying she knew he was with Jesus, Peter got scared. Peter said he didn't even know Jesus.

Have students move crayons to the next picture. And finally, Peter felt so sorry that he cried long and hard.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Peter loved Jesus, but Peter was afraid. The things that happened to Jesus in the garden made Peter and the other disciples so scared that they ran away! They wanted to protect themselves from the angry crowd. Even though Peter was afraid, he followed Jesus to the place where He was being judged. When Peter was pointed out as a friend of Jesus, he denied it was true! Three times he told the people who were near him that he did not know Jesus. Peter felt very sorry for denying the friend he so loved.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

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.

MATERIALS

- Memory Verse Flip Chart Page

INSTRUCTIONS

Practice the memory verse several times pointing to each word picture as the students repeat after you.

Divide into two groups: boys and girls, long hair and short hair, blue eyes and brown eyes, etc. have the students squat down. Say the first word or phrase then point to the first group. Have them "pop up" and repeat after you then squat back down. Continue the verse as you point to the other group allowing them to "pop up" and then squat back down. Repeat the verse as time allows.

We're going to see if we all remember the words to our memory verse. Squat down like this. Show example of squatting down, ready to "pop up." We're going to pretend that we

are popcorn about ready to pop! I'll start by saying the first word(s) in our memory verse. Then I will point to this group. They will all "pop up" and repeat the words after me and squat back down. Then I'll say the next part of the memory verse and point to the other group. And that group will "pop up" and repeat after me. And we'll keep going back and forth until we are done with the verse. Okay, are you ready?

You may want to sing the Memory Verse Song instead of saying the verse. When finished, see if anyone can say the verse using the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

After Jesus died on the Cross and rose again, He appeared to the disciples and told them that He had a special job for them! Jesus told them to go and tell everyone about Jesus so they could believe in Jesus and follow Him, too.



Applying God's Word/Snack

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

After thanking God for your snack, review today's lesson using the Flip Chart.

Peter followed the angry crowd as they arrested Jesus and took Him away. Peter couldn't go in where Jesus was, so he stayed outside and tried to see and hear what was happening to his friend.

As he was in the yard, Peter's love for Jesus was tested. People said three different times that Peter must know Jesus. But Peter denied that he knew Jesus. Peter was afraid. Then Peter thought about what he had done. He was very sorry and cried for a very long time.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

We believe that God's Word is true. We believe that Jesus is God's Son. We believe that Jesus was born so that He would one day die on the Cross for sinners. We believe these things because they are in the Bible.

The Apostle Peter believed God's Word to be true, too. He loved Jesus, but on that night, after Jesus was arrested, Peter's love for Jesus was tested. Even though Peter said he loved Jesus, he told the people around him that he didn't even know Jesus. Peter was afraid of what the people might do to him.

When Jesus died on the Cross, He took the punishment for our sins. And He made a way for sinners, like you and me, to be forgiven. Later, after Jesus rose from the dead, Jesus forgave Peter for denying Him. Peter would not deny Jesus again! He learned his lesson. He loved Jesus, and Peter went on to tell others all about Him.

We need to remember that no matter how badly we sin, Jesus says He will forgive us. The Bible tells us to confess our sins, to tell Jesus we're truly sorry, and to turn back to Him!

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



Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for sending His Son, Jesus, so we can have forgiveness of sins.
- Praise God for Jesus who knows all things and has sovereign control over all things.
- Pray that God will help us be brave and tell others about Jesus.

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring sheet, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

Song Sheet

MATTHEW 28:19

(To the tune of "Are You Sleeping?")

Shout: Matthew 28:19!

Go therefore and make disciples

(Are you sleeping? Are you sleeping?)

Of all the nations, baptizing them

(Brother John? Brother John?)

In the na-ame of the Father

(Morning bells are ringing.)

A-and of the So-on

(Morning bells are ringing.)

And of the

(Ding, ding, dong!)

Holy Spirit.

(Ding, ding, dong!)

Shout: Matthew 28:19!

CLEAN MY HEART

(To the tune of "Jesus Loves Me")

In my heart, what does God see?

(Jesus loves me, this I know,)

Is He the one I want to please?

(For the Bible tells me so.)

Or does my heart need help, Oh, Lord?

(Little ones to Him belong.)

Clean out the sin and make it yours!

(They are weak, but He is strong.)

Yes, I need Jesus!

(Yes, Jesus loves me!)

Yes, I need Jesus!

(Yes, Jesus loves me!)

Yes, I need Jesus!

(Yes, Jesus loves me!)

Please, clean my heart today!

(The Bible tells me so.)

Think of fun ways to sing. Get children in a circle holding hands. They can go in one direction and at each verse quickly reverse direction. Put one or more than one child in the middle of the circle. Go around them then move in and back out! Get them into a straight line. Have them follow you around the room.

WE GATHER ALL AROUND

(To the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell")

We gather all around.

Walk in circle, holding hands.

(The farmer in the dell,)

To hear God's holy Word.

Stand still, hold hands like open book.

(The farmer in the dell,)

We pray and thank Him every day.

Bow head, fold hands.

(Hi-ho! The derry-o!)

We praise and love our God.

Stretch both arms up in praise then cross arms over heart.

(The farmer in the dell,)

God is with us there.

Point away.

God is with us here.

Point to self.

God is with us everywhere.

Stretch both arms up, then outward.

We praise and love our God.

Stretch both arms up in praise then cross arms over heart.