

VBS
2018

Wednesday



FOLLOW ME!

Lessons from the Life of Peter

Pre-K/Kindergarten

Peter's Denial

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word

Objective This lesson will teach the kids the importance of doing what's right even when others are not using the story of Peter's denial.

Key Verses

Mark 14:27-31, 54, 66-72—Main Teaching Passage
Matthew 26:31-35, 69-75; Luke 22:31-34, 54-62; John 13:37-38, 18:15-18, 25-27 (Parallel passages)

Memory Verse - Matthew 16:24

"Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.'"

Hook

Have all the students make a crumpled-up paper ball and stand on one side of the room. Have one student stand on the other side. Play a game in which all students want to get as many paper balls as possible on the opposite side of the room.

Explain to the class that the large group had a much easier time because it's easier to do something when everyone else is doing it. It is much harder to do something alone. Today we are going to see that we need to do what's right even if everyone else is doing what's wrong.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

On the night before his death, Jesus made a shocking announcement about His disciples. In Mark 14:27-31, Jesus told them that they all would leave Him that night. When Peter heard this, he answered that even if all the other disciples left Jesus, he never would. Jesus responded by saying that before the rooster crowed twice that night, Peter would deny knowing Him three times. Peter kept telling Jesus that he wouldn't deny Him, even if he had to die.

Later that night, a group of men sent by the chief priests came to arrest Jesus. The rest of the disciples ran away, but Peter followed the group to the house of the high priest, though he stayed far away (verse 54). While Jesus was on trial inside, Peter sat outside, warming himself by the fire. As he sat there, one of the high priest's servant girls came up to him and said that he was one of Jesus' followers. Peter responded that he didn't know what she was talking about, and the rooster crowed. Later, the servant girl saw him again and told those who were with her that Peter was one of Jesus' disciples, but he said he didn't know who Jesus was. Then another man said that Peter must have been a disciple because of his accent. Peter got angry at this and again said he did not know Jesus. As soon as that happened, the rooster crowed again, and Peter remembered what Jesus had said. When he realized what he had done, he left crying.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK

In today's story, Peter knew the right thing to do was follow Jesus and not deny Him. He wanted to do what was right, even promising to die if he had to in order to follow Jesus. The problem was that he felt pressure from the people around him to do what was wrong even though he knew what was right. Peter was afraid of what might happen if he admitted to following Jesus in front of other people right after his Master's arrest, and so he denied knowing Jesus and ended up humiliated.

Those of us who are Christians want to do what is right and please the Lord. However, that can be difficult when the people around us do not share the same interest in pleasing God and are doing things we know we're not supposed to do. When we are around unbelievers and they are doing something sinful, we might feel the same pressure as Peter did to do what everyone else is doing rather than obeying Christ. We might be tempted by what they are doing or afraid of what they might think if we don't go along. When that happens, we have a choice. We can either do

LOOK (Continued)

what everyone else is doing and join in with the crowd, or we can obey Jesus and do what's right, no matter what.

We might not ever be in the exact same situation as Peter, but there are many different situations where we have a similar choice. When you see other kids at school making fun of somebody, do you join in, or do you stand up for the person being made fun of? When you are at a friend's house and they want to do something your parents say you aren't allowed to do, you can do it anyway, or you can tell your friend no. Perhaps you hear your friends or siblings saying bad things about your parents or teacher. Do you say bad things too, or do you remind everyone that this is wrong? Doing what Jesus wants is hard. It might mean someone gets upset with you, and you could even lose a friend. But doing what the Lord wants is always worth it in the end.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, memorize Matthew 16:24.

Review the lesson by asking the class what Jesus said Peter would do. How many times did Peter deny Jesus? What should we do when other people tempt us to disobey Jesus?

Pray: Ask Jesus to help us to do what's right, even when others around us are tempting us. Thank Him for loving us even when we do what's wrong.

Parent Question: When other people try to get us to disobey Jesus, what should we do?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Mark 14:26-31, 66-72 by David Guzik

4. ([Mar 14:26-31](#)) Jesus predicts the desertion of the disciples and Peter's denial.

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee." Peter said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble, yet I *will not be*." Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that today, *even this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.*" But he spoke more vehemently, "If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And they all said likewise.

a. **When they had sung a hymn:** We don't often think of Jesus singing, but He did. He lifted His voice in adoration and worship to God the Father. We can endlessly wonder what His voice sounded like, but we know for certain that He sang with more than His voice, and He lifted His whole heart up in praise. This reminds us that God *wants* to be praised with singing.

i. It is remarkable that Jesus could sing on this night before His crucifixion. Could you sing in such circumstances? Will you let Jesus be your worship leader? "What! A Christian silent when others are praising his Master? No; he must join in the song. Satan tries to make God's people dumb, but he cannot, for the Lord has not a tongue-tied child in all his family. They can all speak, and they can all cry, even if they cannot all sing, and *I* think there are times when they can all sing; yea, they must, for you know the promise, 'Then shall the tongue of the dumb sing.' Surely, when Jesus leads the tune, if there should be any silent ones in the Lord's family, they must begin to praise the name of the Lord." (Spurgeon)

ii. This means we should sing to God our Father – *just as Jesus did* – because this is something that pleases Him, and when we love someone we want to do the things that please *them*. It really doesn't matter if it does or doesn't please *us*.

iii. "What is singing but emotional expression? Oh! The value and the power of emotion. Evil emotion slays the Lord of life and glory! Pure emotion makes possible the saving of the slayers." (Morgan)

b. **Sung a hymn:** It is wonderful that Jesus sang, but *what* did He sing? A Passover meal always ended with singing three Psalms known as the *Hallel*, [Psalms 116-118](#). Surely the words of these Psalms ministered to Jesus as He sang them on the night before His crucifixion.

i. "When Jesus arose to go to Gethsemane, [Psalm 118](#) was upon his lips. It provided an appropriate description of how God would guide his Messiah through distress and suffering to glory." (Lane)

c. **They went to the Mount of Olives:** "Jesus tarried with them in the Upper Room for the wonderful discourse and prayer in [John 14](#) to [John 17](#). They may have gone out to the street after [John 14:31](#)." (Robertson)

i. "Our Lord knew that his time was now come when he must be actually delivered into the hands of his enemies. That he might not therefore cause any disturbance either to the master of the family wherein he was, or to the city, though it was now midnight, he goeth out of the city." (Ironsides)

d. **All of you will be made to stumble:** Jesus said this not to condemn His disciples, but to show them that

He really was in command of the situation, and to demonstrate that the Scriptures regarding the suffering of the Messiah *must* be fulfilled.

i. This was not the first time Jesus warned Peter and the other disciples that they would forsake Him. From a careful reconstruction of the Gospels, we find that Jesus first warned them about this in the upper room, now again in the Garden of Gethsemane.

e. **After I have been raised:** This shows that Jesus was already looking beyond the cross. He had His eyes fixed on *the joy set before Him* ([Hebrews 12:2](#)).

f. **Even if all are made to stumble, yet I will not be:** We wonder how Peter could ever say such a thing. Tragically, Peter was unaware of both the spiritual *reality* and the spiritual *battle* that Jesus clearly saw. Peter only looked to how he felt at the moment, and at the moment he felt pretty brave.

i. "It is sometimes easier to bear a great load for Christ than a small one. Some of us could be martyrs at the stake more easily than confessors among sneering neighbors." (Maclaren)

g. **Assuredly, I say to you that today, even this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times:** Peter, despite his bold proclamation that he would never be made to stumble, would fail in what he thought was his strong area – courage and boldness. Through this solemn warning Jesus gave Peter an opportunity to take heed and consider his own weakness.

i. Sadly, it was an opportunity that Peter did not take: **he spoke more vehemently, "If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!"** Jesus knew Peter far better than Peter did, and in overestimating himself, Peter was set up for a fall.

ii. **He spoke more vehemently:** "This strong compound adverb [is found] only in Mark and probably preserves Peter's own statement of the remark." (Robertson)

iii. The rest of the disciples also overestimated their strength and did not rely on the Lord in the critical hour: **And they all said likewise.** The Apostle Paul warned us against falling where we think we are strong: *Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall* ([1 Corinthians 10:12](#)). When we think we are beyond the reach of some sins, we are ready for a fall.

5. ([Mar 14:66-72](#)) Peter's denial.

Now as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came. And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with Jesus of Nazareth." But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you are saying." And he went out on the porch, and a rooster crows. And the servant girl saw him again, and began to say to those who stood by, "This is one of them." But he denied it again. And a little later those who stood by said to Peter again, "Surely you are *one* of them; for you are a Galilean, and your speech shows *it*." Then he began to curse and swear, "I do not know this Man of whom you speak!" A second time *the* rooster crows. Then Peter called to mind the word that Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times." And when he thought about it, he wept.

a. **Now as Peter was below in the courtyard:** As Mark concludes the story of Peter's denial in [Mark 14:66-72](#), he does it as a flashback. This didn't happen as Jesus was beaten, but as He was on trial.

i. Peter's first problem was that he *followed Him at a distance* ([Mark 14:54](#)). When we distance ourselves from Jesus, it is hard to make a proper stand for Him at the critical time.

ii. Next, Peter *sat with the servants and warmed himself at the fire* ([Mark 14:54](#)). Peter found fellowship and

warmth in the company of the ungodly, having forsaken the fellowship of the fleeing disciples. Peter wanted to seem just one of this crowd, not a follower of Jesus.

iii. The *officers* of [Mark 14:65](#) who struck Jesus are the same people as the *servants* of [Mark 14:54](#), because the same ancient Greek word is used of both groups. Peter sat and associated himself with the same men who beat Jesus, and they beat Him just because someone else told them that Jesus was a wicked man.

b. **I neither know nor understand what you are saying:** A hostile man of authority interrogated Jesus. Peter did not face this kind of interrogation, only **one of the servant girls**. But she was enough to make Peter deny Jesus. “A silly wench daunteth and dispiriteth this stout champion.” (Trapp)

i. **I neither know nor understand:** “Peter denied the charge, using the form common in rabbinical law for a formal, legal denial.” (Lane)

ii. “Yet all this evil sprung from the *fear of man*. How many denials of Christ and his truth have sprung since, from the same cause!” (Clarke)

iii. Thinking it might help distance himself from association with Jesus, Peter **began to curse and swear**. When we hear that kind of language, we assume the person is not a follower of Jesus Christ.

c. **And when he thought about it, he wept:** Peter finally **called to mind the word that Jesus had said to him**, but he remembered it too late – it was *after* he had sinned. Then all Peter could do was to weep bitterly – but he will be restored.

i. “It was not the crowing of the cock that convicted Peter; it was the remembering of Christ’s words.” (Wiersbe)

ii. There is a significant contrast between Judas and Peter. Both of them denied Jesus in one way or another, but one was restored and the other was not. Restoring Peter was important to Jesus; after His resurrection, Jesus had a private meeting with Peter ([Luke 24:34](#)) and a public restoration with Peter ([John 21](#)). Judas ended up as an apostate, and Peter was a backslider who suffered spiritual decline from an experience he once enjoyed.