

Bible Stories for Adults

Peter Denies Jesus

Matthew 26:69-75

Opening

Gathering: How readily do Christians acknowledge or deny their relationship with Jesus to others?

Today's Focus: Before he was empowered by the Holy Spirit, Peter boldly stepped out in faith only to find that his self-made faith was too weak.

Key Verses: *Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with You, I will never disown You."* Matthew 26:35

*Then he began to call out curses on himself and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!"
Immediately a rooster crowed. ... He went outside and wept bitterly.* Matthew 26:74-75

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Peter the Rock (*Matthew 16:13-20*)

How did Peter first enter the story of Jesus' ministry?

John 1:35-37, 40-42

Why did Jesus give him this name? Because his faith was rock solid?

Matthew 16:18-19

What was Jesus responding to when He made this statement to Peter?

Matthew 16:13-16

Was this a sign of Peter's rock solid faith?

Matthew 16:17

How else do we see that Peter and the others didn't really understand what he had said?

Matthew 16:20

How did Peter later show a greater understanding of the meaning of being a rock of Jesus?

1 Peter 2:4-6

How does Paul describe this concept?

Ephesians 2:19-22

Simon the Man (*Mark 1:29-31*)

Where was Simon (Peter) from?

John 1:44

Where did Peter live when he met Jesus?

Mark 1:21, 29

What do we learn about Peter from the following story in Mark?

Mark 1:30-31

Was Peter married throughout Jesus' ministry?

1 Corinthians 9:5

Simon the Fisherman (*Luke 5:1-11*)

What story tells us what Peter did in Capernaum?

Luke 5:1-7

How did this event change Simon's life?

Luke 5:8-11

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Jesus' Small Group (*Luke 6:12-17*)

How many disciples did Jesus have?

Luke 6:17

Did Jesus have a need to form a Small Group of a few select disciples?

Luke 6:12-16

What was Jesus' key purpose for this Small Group?

John 17:6-8, 20

Jesus' Inner Circle (*Matthew 26:36-38*)

Did Jesus feel especially close to any of His Small Group members?

Matthew 26:36-38

Where else do we see this inner circle?

Luke 8:51

Luke 9:28-31

Luke 22:8

Did Jesus choose His inner circle because they best understood His purpose?

Mark 10:35-38

Jesus called Simon *Rock*. Did He give nicknames to James and John?

Mark 3:16-17

What story helps us understand why Jesus called them *Boanerges*?

Luke 9:52-56

Did Peter understand Jesus' purpose any better than James and John?

Matthew 16:21-23

Peter's Faith (*Matthew 14:22-31*)

Was Peter's faith hesitant or bold?

Matthew 14:22, 25, 28-29

How rock solid was Peter after he stepped out in faith?

Matthew 14:30-31

Which seed in Jesus' parable of the sower best describes Peter's faith at this time?

Matthew 13:3-8

Why would Peter's faith be so bold at first but die so quickly?

Mark 10:28

Where should Peter have looked for his faith?

Ephesians 2:8

Peter's Faith From God (*Acts 2*)

Was Peter sincere in his faith?

John 13:36-37

Did Peter sincerely want a stronger faith?

John 13:6-9

Would Peter ever receive this strong faith he longed for?

John 14:26

When did this happen?

Acts 2:1, 4

Did Peter receive a strong faith at this time as Jesus had promised?

Acts 2:14, 36-38, 41

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Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial (*Matthew 26:31-35*)

How did Jesus' apostles respond when Jesus said that one of them would betray Him?

Matthew 26:21-22

After realizing it wasn't them, were the eleven allowed to rest proudly on their faithfulness?

Matthew 26:31-32

How did Peter show his pride in the faith he had built for himself?

Matthew 26:33

Did Jesus know more about Peter's situation than Peter himself?

Luke 22:31-33

Did Jesus agree that Peter would be able to withstand Satan's temptations?

Matthew 26:34

Did Peter accept Jesus' warning?

Matthew 26:35

How did Peter later show the misguided sincerity of his faith?

John 18:3, 10-11

All Fall Away (*Mark 14:50-54*)

How was Jesus' prediction fulfilled that all would fall away that night?

Mark 14:50

Did His disciples sneak away or "run for their lives"?

Mark 14:51-52

Did proud Peter also run away or did he stay close with Jesus?

Luke 22:54

Peter's First Denial (*John 18:15-18*)

Was Peter the only disciple who followed Jesus?

John 18:15

How was Peter able to get into the high priest's courtyard?

John 18:16

How sincerely did Peter want to get in to be available to support his Jesus?

John 18:17

Did Peter realize what he had done and try to stay away from others to keep from repeating it?

John 18:18

Peter's Second Denial (*Matthew 26:71-72*)

What inevitably happened while Peter stood around the group in the courtyard?

Mark 14:69

How did Peter respond?

Matthew 26:72

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Peter's Third Denial (*Matthew 26:73-74*)

Did Peter's oath convince the people standing around?

Matthew 26:73

Who did John identify as one of the people who spoke to Peter?

John 18:26

Did Peter finally admit who he was?

Matthew 26:74a

Peter's Wakeup Call (*Luke 22:60-62*)

What happened just as Peter denied Jesus the third time?

Luke 22:60

Did Peter realize what this meant?

Matthew 26:75

What especially helped Peter realize the severity of what he had done?

Luke 22:60-61

How did Peter feel when reality sank in?

Luke 22:62

Peter is Reinstated (*John 21:15-17*)

How did Peter show his distraught condition when he heard that Jesus had risen?

Luke 24:11-12

Did Jesus give Peter a chance to reconfirm his faith after denying Him three times?

John 21:15-17

Godly Sorrow or Worldly Sorrow (*2 Corinthians 7:10*)

How did Judas react in worldly sorrow to his guilt of denial?

Matthew 27:3-5

How was Peter's sorrow considered godly in comparison to Judas' worldly sorrow?

2 Corinthians 7:9

Could Judas have been forgiven if he had godly sorrow instead of worldly sorrow?

2 Corinthians 7:10

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. How bold and sincere is my faith? What am I willing to do for Jesus?
(*Matthew 26:35; Mark 1:16-20; 10:28-31; Luke 9:57-62; 17:5-6; Acts 6:8, 12; 7:1-2, 51-60*)
2. Do I tend to look to myself or to God as my source of faith?
(*Matthew 16:21-23; Jeremiah 17:5, 7; Acts 8:9-24; 2 Corinthians 1:9; Ephesians 2:8*)
3. When have I realized or recognized the power and work of the Holy Spirit on my faith?
(*John 14:15-17, 25-27; 16:7-15; 1 Samuel 10:9-11; Acts 2; 10:44-48; 1 Corinthians 12*)
4. When have I denied my relationship with Jesus to others?
(*Matthew 26:31-35, 69-75; Luke 9:26; 12:8-12; Galatians 1:6-8; 2 Timothy 2:11-13*)
5. When have I experienced godly sorrow that has led me to repentance?
(*Matthew 26:75; 27:3-5; 2 Samuel 12:9, 13, 15-17; 24:10; Acts 2:36-41; 2 Corinthians 7:6-11*)