

PETER DENIES JESUS

John 18:12-27

KIDS
3RD-6TH

NL

Key Verse:

Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.
John 18:27

The Point:

Even for the most faithful disciple, it is not always easy to follow Jesus.

Making Connections:

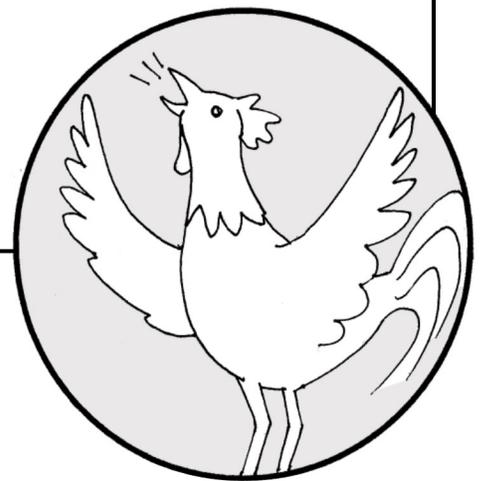
Following Jesus

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Jewish Religious Leaders

Spiritual Practice:

Service



BACKGROUND

Making Connections

We continue with our theme of Following Jesus by hearing the story of Jesus on trial and Peter's denial, as told in John 18:12-27. Jesus is questioned in front of a high priest about his teachings and followers. Meanwhile, Peter struggles to follow and, instead, denies knowing Jesus.

Story Summary:

Peter Denies Jesus

The former high priest Annas questions Jesus about his teachings and his ministry. However, instead of denying what he has taught, Jesus responds by questioning Annas' accusations. Even after being struck by a guard, Jesus continues to show boldness and stands up for his ministry.

When questioned about being one of Jesus' disciples by guards and servants of the high priests, Peter responds three times by denying any involvement in Jesus' ministry. Peter does this out of fear for what might happen to him if he confirms their suspicions. Unlike Jesus, Peter's fear prevents him from being bold and standing up for his teacher.

The Point

Even for the most faithful disciple, it is not always easy to follow Jesus. Sometimes being a follower of Jesus is hard. Sometimes people question our faith or why we go to church, and at other times we feel self-conscious and full of doubt. When we face questions or challenges, it is easy for us to be like Peter and use our fear to deny our faith in Jesus. However, as disciples of Christ, we are challenged to be bold and stand up for Jesus' teachings, no matter what may happen.

Bible Nuts & Bolts :

Jewish Religious Leaders

Early Jewish religious leaders played an important role in temple worship, though the amount of responsibility and privilege given to each role was different. Although both priests and high priests participated in sacrificial rituals in the temple, high priests were given the privilege of entering the Holy of Holies, the most sacred part of the temple, for a yearly sacrifice.

High priests also held a political role in society. High priests were responsible for overseeing all of the religious authorities, which included legal bodies like the Sanhedrin, which tried Jesus. During Jesus' time, Caiaphas was the high priest, though in this story, we see Jesus speak directly with Annas, a former high priest and the father-in-law of Caiaphas.

Spiritual Practice: Service

An act of service can involve helping one another in difficult times. Our congregations are places where we can carry each other through these challenging periods. This week, students will learn a responsive prayer to help guide worship participants as we lift one another up through a time of confession.



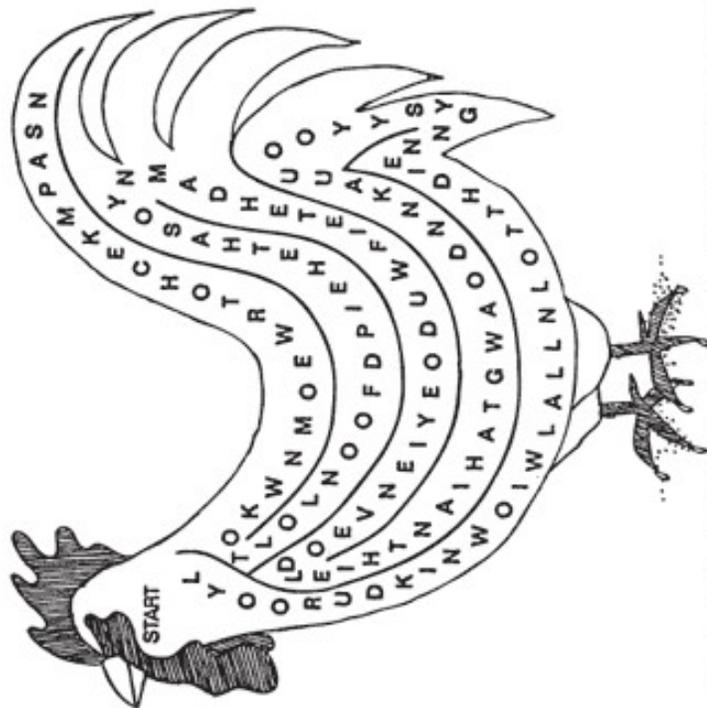
Name: _____ Date: _____

Peter Denies Jesus

J H D D M L R E M E M B E R E D Y
C L S O L D I E R S V D S J U L Q
J B C X D I V F J Z G R B H P R G
S H W G A L I L E E E W H N E I E
O F O E J Q O B K D V V I O V G T
Y T C H J I F Q A M D I G G A T H
P R A Y I N G E H G R T H S G N S
A L K Q D B L J J O H K P B R A E
N A A A Y H P J C T C Z R O O V M
B T X F C L Q U C S W R I Q F R A
S V X R R V Y B D A X O E S Q E N
N E U M G A E K F I R E S I W S E
E H C C K Z I L X Y I B T Q I Z O
C A A K K X D D P D R J R H F R Y
F C R E T S O O R O R E T E P Z U
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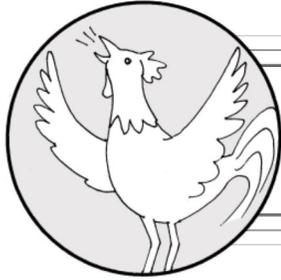
church leaders	servant girl	high priest	Christians
Gethsemane	remembered	soldiers	forgave
Galilee	praying	rooster	afraid
people	Peter	fire	lied

Write down every other letter starting with the "L" to find two things Peter said on the night Jesus was arrested.



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GOAL	←	↑	↕	←	←	↑	←	START

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THE STORY @ HOME

**KIDS
3RD-6TH**

NL

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 4 (2025-2026)

Lesson #4-26
John 18:12-27

LAST WEEK

Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. Jesus showed his followers again how important relationships are as we serve one another (John 13:1-17).

THIS WEEK

After Jesus is arrested, Peter denies him three times (John 18:12-27).

STORY SUMMARY

Peter Denies Jesus

The former high priest Annas questions Jesus about his teachings and his ministry. However, instead of denying what he has taught, Jesus responds by questioning Annas' accusations. Even after being struck by a guard, Jesus continues to show boldness and stands up for his ministry. But when Peter is questioned about being one of Jesus' disciples by guards and servants of the high priests, he denies any involvement in Jesus' ministry three times. Peter is afraid about what might happen to him if he tells the truth. Unlike Jesus, Peter's fear prevents him from being bold and standing up for his teacher.

PRACTICE SERVICE

An act of service can involve helping others in difficult times, supporting and caring for them with our actions. As a family, choose a way to care for someone who is hurting this week.

THE POINT

Even for the most faithful disciple, it is not always easy to follow Jesus.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

Jewish Religious Leaders

Early Jewish religious leaders played an important role in temple worship, though the amount of responsibility and privilege given to each role was different. Although both priests and high priests participated in sacrificial rituals in the temple, high priests were given the privilege of entering the Holy of Holies, the most sacred part of the temple, for a yearly sacrifice. High priests were also responsible for overseeing all of the religious authorities, which included legal bodies like the Sanhedrin, which tried Jesus. During Jesus' time, Caiaphas was the high priest, though in this story, we see Jesus speak directly with Annas, a former high priest and the father-in-law of Caiaphas.

NEXT WEEK

Jesus is taken to the court of Pontius Pilate for more questioning (John 18:28-40).

Family Discussions

Use the questions below—or any you have—to discuss this lesson’s Scripture reading with your family.

- † Did you find anything in this reading that was surprising?
- † What does this Scripture have to do with our lives today?
- † What part of this Scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God’s message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday—Read John 18:12-27

Peter denies Jesus. Have a real or pretend campfire together. Tell your favorite stories.

Monday—Read Psalm 27:1-14

My enemies will stumble and fall. Gather around a flashlight, lantern, or candle in an otherwise dark room. Talk about your fears, and respond with “The Lord is my light and my salvation.”

Tuesday—Read Isaiah 45:14-19

God does not speak in secret. Play a game of Telephone, passing a phrase around the circle. End with the game with the phrase “I the Lord speak the truth.”

Wednesday—Read John 14:8-12

Jesus going to the Father. Talk about the traits you share as a family. In what ways are you alike? In what ways are you like Jesus?

Thursday—Read John 14:13-17

Jesus will send the spirit of truth. If you do not remember them, look up the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20. Which one is the most difficult for you to keep? Why?

Friday—Read John 14:18-21

Jesus will not leave the disciples orphaned. Share a time when it seemed like Jesus was far away and had left you alone. How did you realize he was still with you?

Friday—Read John 14:23-29

My peace I leave with you. Make the sign of the cross on each other’s forehead or hand and speak this blessing: Jesus gives us peace.