



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 36

PETER DENIES JESUS

Even the most confident man will not stand apart from Jesus.



MONDAY

THE STORY: JOHN 18:15-18

Peter and another disciple followed Jesus to the high priest's courtyard, where Jesus was questioned. Peter waited just outside the door. While he was there, a woman recognized him and suggested he was a disciple of Jesus. Peter answered, "I am not." This is hardly the same man who hours earlier at the Last Supper boasted, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I will not" (see Mark 14:29).

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why did Peter deny knowing Jesus? (Peter was afraid.)

What was Peter afraid of? (Peter was probably afraid of being arrested like Jesus.)

How might we deny Jesus today? (We might hide the fact that we are Christians to avoid what people might think. In some countries a believer can still be arrested and even killed for faith in Jesus.)

PRAY:

Pray for Christians in nations where they face arrest and worse for being Christians.



TUESDAY

THE STORY: JOHN 18:19-24

Jesus was questioned. The high priest Annas questioned Jesus about His disciples and His teaching. In His answer Jesus suggested the high priest ask those who heard Him. Jesus was struck for this answer. The irony of Jesus' remark is that one of His disciples, who heard His teaching, was standing just outside the door, denying Him.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why did the official hit Jesus? (Jesus answered the high priest in a way wrongly perceived to be disrespectful.)

Was Jesus answer disrespectful? (No. Jesus only spoke the truth.)

Why should the high priest have known who Jesus really was? (The high priest would have known the Scriptures better than most and would have been familiar with the prophecies concerning the coming Messiah.)

Is it possible for us to not know Jesus even though we have the Bible? (Yes. Many people own Bibles, some even study them, and yet in their hearts they do not believe in Him. We need to call out to God for grace to believe and to yield our lives to Christ.)

PRAY:

Pray God would give each member of your family grace to believe and place their trust in Him.



WEDNESDAY
WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

THE STORY: MATTHEW 26:69-75

So often we think we can follow Jesus in our own strength. Peter thought this way. The truth is, even though we think we would do better, we are just like Peter. It is only by the grace of God that we believe. Faith is a gift from God.

Peter needed a Savior. Jesus, the one Peter denied, was moments away from the cross, where He would become that Savior and die for Peter's sin and our sin. What an amazing display of love, that Jesus would go to the cross willingly even while those closest to Him disowned Him. What an amazing Savior who died for us!

TALK ABOUT IT:

What do we learn from this Gospel about Peter's last denial that is different from the account in John? (in Matthew 26:74 Peter's last denial was so strong that he actually began to call down curses upon himself.)

What do we learn from Peter's denial? (We learn that we, too, are sinners in need of a Savior. Our only hope is in Jesus.)

PRAY:

Ask God to help each member of your family trust in Jesus alone.



THURSDAY

THE STORY: JOHN 18:25-27

Peter denies Christ three times just as Christ predicted. Luke records in his gospel

that just after Peter's third denial, the Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. When the rooster crowed, Peter remembered the Lord's warning (see Luke 22:61). Luke records that Peter wept bitterly (see Luke 22:62).

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why do you think Peter kept on denying Christ? (One lie often leads to another. To tell the truth after the first lie would not only be an admission that Peter knew Jesus, but also that he was a liar.)

Do you think Peter was sorry for what He did? (Yes, there is evidence Peter was repentant in Luke 22:62.)

How does the proverb "pride goes before destruction" (Proverbs 16:18), fit this story? (Peter demonstrated his pride in boasting that he would not abandon Jesus even unto death. He said this in spite of the Lord's warning that all the disciples would fall away. Peter's pride caused him to think he was different than the other disciples.)

PRAY:

Ask God to help you walk humbly. Our boasts should only be in the Lord.



FRIDAY
ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

THE STORY: ISAIAH 53:7

The prophet Isaiah foretold the arrest of Jesus. Isaiah 53:7 says, "He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter; like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so He opened not his mouth."

TALK ABOUT IT:

How does this prophetic passage match the actions of Jesus at His arrest? (Jesus did not resist arrest and did not even say one unkind word.)

How was Jesus oppressed and afflicted? (Jesus was mocked, beaten, falsely accused, given a crown of thorns and crucified.)

PRAY

Thank Jesus for being willing to suffer and die in our place.