

PETER DENIES JESUS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 22:54-62



The STORY

Read about Peter's denial of Christ in Luke 22:54-62.

Please note: The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- The story starts out saying they seized Him. Who is it talking about? (Jesus was seized by the chief priests and the teachers of the law then arrested.)
- Why was Peter following at a distance? (When Jesus was arrested the disciples thought He would fight. Peter even drew his sword and cut off a man's ear. Jesus told Peter to put away his sword, they were not going to fight. When the disciples saw that Jesus was not going to fight and that He was arrested they all ran away afraid. Peter did not run away, but followed at a distance to see what would happen to Jesus.)
- Why did Peter deny Jesus? (Peter was afraid of getting into trouble so he said he didn't know Jesus.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Peter warming himself by a fire. Engage the children by asking:

- What do you think Peter was afraid of after Jesus was arrested? (Peter was afraid of being arrested himself. The chief priests and the elders could have a person stoned to death.)
- Why didn't Peter just run away? (Peter loved Jesus. There was a struggle in his heart much like we have sometimes; we want to do the right thing but we don't.)
- Can you think of another disciple that did just leave Jesus? (Judas betrayed Christ and never returned to ask forgiveness from Jesus.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

Read Luke 22:31-34. Explain what happened earlier that evening. Peter was warned by the Lord that he would deny Him three times. While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- What was the Lord's warning to Peter? (Jesus told Peter that he would deny Him three times that night. It was a warning to Peter not to be too confident in his own strength.)
- Did Peter listen to Jesus' warning? (No, not really. Although Peter heard the words and answered Jesus, Peter thought that Jesus was wrong about him.)
- What does it tell us about Jesus that He could tell what was going to happen before it happened? (Jesus is all-knowing. He is God. He knows all things and controls all things, see Colossians 1:15-19.) promises)

WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

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, and 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!

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

