

LESSON 36

Peter Denies Jesus

LUKE 22:54-62



BIBLE TRUTH

EVEN THE MOST CONFIDENT MAN WILL NOT STAND APART FROM JESUS

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 114)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 36—one for each child; markers or crayons

The Rooster Crows

Denial Skit

SUPPLIES: a large cookie jar; baking props (such as a cookie sheet and spatula)

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children are going to learn about how the disciple Peter denied Jesus.

When class starts ask the children what we call it when we don't tell the truth. (We call it a lie.)

Do the following exercise to help the children understand truth and lies. Explain to the children that you are going to say something and they need to say "truth," if they believe you are telling the truth, or say "lie" if they believe you are lying. Have them practice saying both and then make the first statement:

Truth or lie? My hair is purple. (lie)

Truth or lie? My hair is _____ (give the correct color).

Truth or lie? I am standing on one foot. (Do not stand on one foot.)

Truth or lie? I am standing on one foot. (Go ahead and stand on one foot.)

Point out to the children that God tells us not to lie but always tell the truth.

Take time to pray and thank God that he is always truthful and can always be trusted. Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 114, "Peter Denies Jesus," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

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

- **Who arrested Jesus?**
(Jesus was arrested by the chief priests and the teachers of the law.)

- **Why did Peter follow 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 for being Jesus' friend, so he said he didn't know Jesus.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

Read Luke 22:31–34. Explain that before he was arrested, Jesus had warned Peter about something. While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

So often we, like Peter, think we can follow Jesus in our own strength. 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. Peter needed a Savior. Yet he was blind to the power of his sin. It wasn't until the rooster crowed that Peter realized what he had done.

Jesus was hours away from the cross where he would die for Peter's sin and for the sin of everyone who puts their hope in him. Like Peter, we need God to open our eyes to our sinful condition. 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!

■ **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 [Colossians 1:15–19].)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

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.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 36—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

■ **What did the servant girl ask Peter?**

(The servant girl asked Peter if he was with Jesus.)

■ **What did Peter tell the servant girl when she asked him if he was with Jesus?**

(Peter was afraid he would get into trouble so he lied and said he didn't know Jesus.)

■ **Why is there a rooster in the picture?**

(Jesus told Peter that after he lied the rooster would crow.)

The Rooster Crows

Have one of the children play the role of Peter and act out his denial of Christ. When he tells his third lie, have the rest of the class all crow together like roosters. Talk about how powerful Jesus is that he knew what was going to happen before it happened. Talk about what Peter did wrong.

What good things do you see in Peter? We can often think of this story as a story about how poorly Peter did. But there are evidences of grace. Ask the children to share the good things Peter did.

- Peter defended the Lord when he was about to be arrested.
- Peter wanted to follow Jesus even if it meant his own death.
- Peter followed Jesus even when he was afraid.
- Peter was sad and cried after the rooster crowed, realizing that he sinned against Jesus.

After the children share, explain the likelihood that we would have been just as afraid as Peter and have denied Jesus also.

Denial Skit

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a large cookie jar
- ✓ baking props (such as a cookie sheet and spatula)

The purpose of this skit is to help the children understand that Peter's denial was a lie. Act out the following skit with two teachers or helpers. Actor 1 can be a younger teen helper; actor 2, the teacher.

Actor 1 plays the role of a child waiting for his mother to leave the kitchen so he can sneak a cookie from a cookie jar.

Actor 2 plays the role of the child's mother. The mother pretends to be in and out of the kitchen baking cookies. She spends time in the kitchen filling the cookie jar with freshly baked cookies, but then leaves to get something she

needs in another room. When she leaves, she tells the child not to touch the cookies in the cookie jar.

Each time the mother leaves the room the child looks tempted, but the mother returns when he gets close to taking a cookie out of the cookie jar. The last time his mother returns sooner than expected.

The mother leaves the room to

- place a letter in the mailbox before the letter carrier comes;
- answer a phone call;
- calm a crying baby;
- take care of the laundry.

It is at this last exit that the child actually takes the cookie. When the mother returns she asks the child three times if he took a cookie. The child denies it saying he didn't even touch the cookie jar. His denial is convincing except for one fact—he left the lid off the cookie jar. When the mother finally confronts him with this fact, he confesses and the skit is over.

Ask the children how the skit is like what happened in the Bible story with Peter. Help them see that Peter lied and that lying is a sin against God. Talk to the class about the importance of always telling the truth. By not telling the truth, Peter was not trusting God.

CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today's lesson.

LESSON 36 - PETER DENIES JESUS

