

LESSON 36

# Peter Denies Jesus

MATTHEW 26:69-75



BIBLE TRUTH

EVEN THE MOST CONFIDENT MAN WILL NOT STAND APART FROM JESUS

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW . . . . . 5 MIN

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN

Read Matthew 26:69–75 from the Scriptures or read story 114, “Peter Denies Jesus,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . 10 MIN

Share a Testimony

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION . . . . . 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 10 MIN

Have You Ever Lied?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

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

8. CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 20 MIN

Denial Drama

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ simple costumes made from flat sheets, rope belts, plastic swords or sticks, and a towel or two

TOTAL 85 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

**Peter hid the truth**—Peter and another disciple followed Jesus to the high priest’s courtyard where Jesus was questioned. While he was there, a woman recognized him and asked if he was a disciple of Jesus (John 18:15–17). Peter denied Jesus. This is hardly the same man who had earlier boasted, “Even though they all fall away, I will not” (Mark 14:29).

**Jesus had no witness**—The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus suggested that the high priest ask those who heard him (John 18:21). One of the officers then struck Jesus. The irony of Jesus’ remark is that Peter, who heard Jesus’ teaching and could have come to his defense, stood in the courtyard, denying him.

**Peter denied Jesus**—Peter denied Christ three times just as Jesus had foreseen. Peter had begun the evening with the confident, proud declaration, “Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away” (Matthew 26:33). Jesus had warned Peter about his pride. Now in the courtyard of the high priest, one of the servants who had witnessed Peter’s earlier attack on a fellow servant, recognized and challenged Peter (John 18:26). Peter, now afraid, denied knowing Jesus and even called down curses on himself to prove his truthfulness (Matthew 26:74). Guilty of assault for cutting off a man’s ear, Peter was filled with fear. Instead of placing his hope in Jesus he placed his hope in himself and lied for his own protection.

## 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!

### THE LESSON

#### OPENING REVIEW . . . . . 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

#### BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN

Read Matthew 26:69–75 from the Scriptures or read story 114, "Peter Denies Jesus," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

#### OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . 10 MIN

##### Share a Testimony

Invite a guest to share their testimony. It should be a person who grew up in a Christian home but denied the faith they were taught and rebelled before giving their lives to Christ.

The objective here is to help the children understand that just because Peter was around Jesus didn't mean that he couldn't fall away. If we live in our own strength and reject Jesus, we too

will suffer the consequences. Peter’s denial began in the presence of Jesus when he refused Jesus’ warnings. In many ways Peter was saying, “Not me Lord. I can be strong on my own.” Peter trusted himself.

Use the testimony to help the children remember that being born into a Christian home is no guarantee that they will not deny Jesus. The only guarantee is to keep following his Word. As long as we follow his Word alone, we can be sure that we will not fall away.

**TEACHING/DISCUSSION . . . . . 10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

**OBJECT LESON 2 . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Have You Ever Lied?**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers

Present the following three scenarios and ask the class what they might do to stay out of trouble:

Your younger brother (or sister) grabs a toy that you are playing with so you slap his hand. He starts crying at the top of his lungs. Your mom hears the cries and says, “What happened?” What do you think you would say to her? (Write their responses on the board. Some may tell the truth but most will offer up half-truths or downright lies. If they don’t give sinful responses change the question to ask them what they might say to stay out of trouble.)

You are playing outside in the mud and come in for a drink. Little do you realize mud popped off the cracks in your shoes even though you wiped them on the mat before you came in. About two hours later your dad asks the whole family, “Who tracked mud through the house?” What do you think you would say? (The most likely answer is, “Not me, I rubbed my shoes on the mat when I came in.” Remind the children that dad can match the shape of the mud on the floor with the treads in their shoes.)

Your mom is baking cookies and leaves the room for a few minutes. You just can’t resist and grab one of the warm cookies and eat it quickly. When she returns she asks, “Did you eat any of my cookies?” What do you think you would say?

Help the children see just how easy it is for us to lie and be guilty of the same sin Peter committed.

**SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 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 worker.

**ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Color a Picture**

**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.)*

**CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

**BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 20 MIN**

**Denial Drama**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ simple costumes made from flat sheets, rope belts, plastic swords or sticks, and a towel or two

Assign the following roles so that each person in the class can play a part: Jesus, Peter, John (called “another disciple” in the passage), the high priest, the servant girl, three soldiers, rooster, and servants and officers.

Use the account in John 18:15–27 as your script. Give out the costumes to the main characters and tell them what to say and do as you go along. Once you have made it the whole way through, rehearse again and then take your skit on the road and perform it for one of the younger preschool classes.

LESSON 36 - PETER DENIES JESUS

