

New Testament Skit 35

Jesus Is Arrested/Peter Denies Jesus

Luke 22:39–62 (Mark 14:26–72)

Characters: Jesus, 2 Disciples, Peter, Judas, 3 Temple Guards, Priest, Elder, Servant, 3 Accusers

Costumes: Look for examples in the *Costumes* folder on the CD.

Props: Potted plants, torches (optional), sword, “campfire”

Sounds: Rooster crow

Background: 9

Scatter plants around the garden area. As the scene begins, Jesus is praying in the garden off to one side. The two disciples are asleep. Peter carries a sword.

Scene 1

Peter: *(To audience)* Okay, I found a sword. Now I’m ready to defend Jesus, although I doubt that anything will happen tonight. It’s so dark. Everyone is probably home and asleep. *(Looks back at sleeping disciples)* They certainly are. I don’t blame them. I’m pretty tired myself. Maybe I’ll catch a few winks so that I’ll be well-rested for whenever Jesus needs me. *(Walks to the disciples and lies down)*

Jesus gets up and comes over to the three sleeping disciples. As He walks, the three temple guards, the priest, elder, a servant carrying a torch, and Judas enter. The disciples wake and jump up. Judas walks over to Jesus and kisses Him on the cheek.

Jesus: Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?

Judas steps back and looks ashamed. He bumps into the servant. The servant steps forward. Peter swings the sword at the servant.

Servant: *(Holds his ear and bends over in pain)* Ouch! Oh! Oh !

Jesus: No more of this! *(Touches the servant’s ear)*

At Jesus’ touch, the servant stands upright, removes his hand, and looks happy. The crowd gasps.

Priest: Take Him away!

The soldiers grab Jesus. The disciples run off in one direction, and Judas runs off in another direction.

Scene 2

The soldiers march Jesus around the stage as the campfire is set up. The three accusers enter and sit or stand near the fire. The guards, priest, scribe, servant, and Judas enter from one side. The group walks with Jesus to the far side of Background 9, as if He is awaiting trial. Peter sneaks in and sits by the fire.

Accuser 1: *(Gets up and comes close to Peter)* This man . . . this man was with Him.

Peter: *(Quietly)* I don't know Him.

Accuser 2: Yes, you are one of them.

Peter: *(Angry and fearful)* No! I am not!

Accuser 3: Certainly this man was with Him, for he is a Galilean!

Peter: *(Stands)* I don't know what you are talking about!

Offstage, a rooster crows. Jesus turns to look at Peter. Peter stands still, then turns and looks at Jesus. Peter takes a deep breath and turns toward the audience. He takes a few steps, stops, covers his face with his hands, and runs offstage.