



Session 11: Loyal?
Suggested Week of Use: May 14
Core Passage: Matthew 26:63-75

News Story Summary

Earlier this year, much was made of Vice President Mike Pence's practice of not eating dinner alone with a woman without the presence of his wife. Some have been critical of this practice while others see this as an expression of loyalty to his wife.

(For more on this, search the Internet using the phrase "Mike Pence's loyalty to his wife".)

Focus Attention

To supplement the Focus Attention idea, share the news story and ask: *Why do you think it important for people to find ways of expressing loyalty to others? What are the risks of failing to protect the trust built in your relationships?*

Explain that loyalty is a way of demonstrating respect for another. Challenge the group to look for the contrasts between Peter's failure and Jesus' willingness to remain loyal (In the lesson Peter's failure to stand by the Lord when challenged showed his awareness of his own needs rather than those of His friend. Jesus, on the other hand, "endured the cross, despising the shame" (Hebrews 12:2) and stands with us at all times, even when we make blunders like Peter.)

Challenge

To supplement the Summarize and Challenge ideas, remind the group that Peter was alone when he denied Jesus. Recall the news summary and ask: *How can having other believers around us help us when facing challenges to our faith? What kind of actions can we take to demonstrate loyalty to Christ?* Lead the group to name several sources we can use to restore our courage and loyalty to Christ when we face risks.