

/// REMEMBER THIS

Intro: In John 18:12–27, two trials unfold at the same time. Jesus stands before religious power and speaks openly about who He is. Peter stands by a fire and quietly denies even knowing Him. Same night. Same pressure. Very different responses. This passage forces us to wrestle with our own “courtyard moments”—the subtle spaces at work, at home, or online where identifying with Jesus feels uncomfortable or costly. Peter’s failure reminds us how quickly fear can override bold intentions. But the deeper hope of this text is not Peter’s weakness—it’s Christ’s faithfulness. Jesus does not revoke Peter’s belonging, and He does not revoke ours. Our salvation does not rest on our courage under pressure, but on Christ’s integrity under pressure. As you discuss this passage, reflect honestly on where you feel identity pressure and remember, even when we falter, He remains faithful.

Life Group Helps: Please take a few moments to read through the instructions below in preparation for the following group discussions and the use of the provided material.

Before the group meeting:

1. Spend time engaging the “Passages for Study/Discussion” with prayer.
2. Read through all the material.
 - + As you look through it, you will find helpful tips that will allow you to better facilitate the discussion.
 - + At times, CBC may provide sermon notes, and in the meantime, your sermon notes would be beneficial.
3. Think through ways you can help your group to apply what is being taught instead of “knowing” what’s been taught.

At the Group Meeting:

1. Summarize/Read the “Intro”
2. Assign readers for the passages outlined in the “Passages for study” section.
3. Walk your group through each question (or as many that time will allow). Use the leader guide to facilitate the discussion.

4. Summarize the “Review & Reflection” section. Reading this aloud may be helpful.
5. Share your thoughts on how you and your group can begin to apply what was learned in this lesson. Help them formulate ideas for reading, studying, and meditating on the scriptures.

Bottom Line: Faithful under pressure. Restored after failure.

I. Main Passages for Study:

Leader’s tip: Reading the main passage is vital every week. Some folks in your Life Group (LG) may have missed Sunday, and they need a deeper context to understand where the discussion is going. We prefer that our LG’s get into the Bible for themselves, too. Finally, don’t think you need to get through all the questions. This is a guide, and the Holy Spirit and people’s needs may dictate more time on one question or another, and therefore, you cannot discuss all the questions... and that is perfectly fine! Enjoy!

II. Discussion Questions

1. **What’s a time you felt slightly out of place in a group setting (new job, family gathering, school, church, etc.)? What made it uncomfortable?**
2. **What’s something small you wear, post, or say that signals what you’re about (sports team, hobby, cause, faith, etc.)? Why does that matter to you?**
3. **When you compare Jesus and Peter in this passage, what differences stand out most to you in how they respond to pressure?**
+ 1 Peter 2:23; 2 Timothy 2:13
4. **Peter doesn’t deny Jesus’ teaching—he denies association with Him. Why do you think identifying publicly with Jesus can feel harder than agreeing with His teachings privately?**
5. **Peter had boldly claimed loyalty just hours earlier. Why do you think we often overestimate our courage and underestimate our fear?**

+ John 13:37-38

6. Have you ever stayed silent about your faith or not stood up for what was right when you felt the nudge to speak? What was going on inside you in that moment?

+ Matthew 5:16; Romans 12:1-2

7. In what situations are you most tempted to care more about approval from people than faithfulness to Christ? What does that reveal about what you're afraid of losing?

8. Jesus predicted Peter's denial and still loved him. How does it change you to know your failure doesn't surprise Jesus and doesn't cancel your belonging?

+ Luke 22:32

9. This week, what would it look like to "declare" instead of "deny" Christ in one small, practical way? (A conversation, a boundary, a post, an invitation, a prayer, etc.)

10. What are you committing to think differently, do differently, or believe differently because of this week's discussion?

11. How can others pray for you this week?