

# **Yesterday. Today. Forever.**

**Module: Living Out Your Faith: The Life of Peter**

**Lesson 3: The Denial**

## **Objectives:**

- Students will identify the problem of sin and the importance of acknowledging Christ.
- Students will understand that sin has no hold over us because of what Christ did.

## **Materials Needed**

- ☐ 1 Bible for passage read out loud (bookmark those passages)
- ☐ 1 copy of Appendix A (separating the two passages) per 2 students
- ☐ 1 pen per student

## Minds On

This is a little game called “Back of the line!”

Have students line up in a semi-circle. Assign each person a number (starting at 1 to however many people you have). The person who is number one calls out their own number and then the number of any other person in the group (e.g. “1 and 5”). When the person’s number is called, they must also call out their number and someone else but not the preceding number (e.g. “5 and 2”). This would continue (e.g. “2 and 10”). A person is sent to the back of the line and loses their number if:

- the person calls back the preceding number (e.g. 5)
- a person speaks out of turn (i.e. speaks when their number isn’t called)
- their number is called and the person hesitates

When a person loses their number, everyone else who was behind them moves up one number (e.g. if they were a 10, they are now a 9). The person sent back has the last number. When someone goes to the back of the line the whole group shouts “GO TO THE BACK OF THE LINE!” (Leader’s note: If you have a larger youth group you may want to be brave and attempt one big game, otherwise you might want to break up into smaller groups. This game works best with groups of 10-15, but is workable with both larger and smaller groups.) The goal of the game is to work your way up through the ranks and finish the game in the number 1 spot!

## Action

**Prompt:** In the game we just played we all had a number, and we all knew our number, and we all knew the goal of the game was to be number one! But in the craziness and confusion of the game often we said the wrong number, or said numbers we knew we shouldn't say. Sometimes in life, we end up doing or saying the wrong thing because of our circumstances or the confusion that is going on around us. We have been following the story of Peter, and he did this sort of thing quite a bit. The clearest example is what

happened after Jesus was arrested. Things were pretty confusing, and in the midst of the craziness Peter said some things he probably knew he shouldn't say.

**Think / pair / share:** Present the following questions to the group (you can write them down if appropriate): If you've been betrayed by someone you trusted, how did you feel? After a minute of thought, each student partners with someone else to share their answer. Each person should be prepared to share their partner's answer with the larger group.

Have a student read Luke 22:28-34 out loud for the group (remember to tell your students that Simon is Peter's real name. Peter is a nickname.)

**Ask:** What is Jesus telling his disciples?

What does he say to Peter?

What does Peter say back to him?

Prompt: So it's pretty clear that Peter and Jesus are really good friends if Peter is willing to die or go to prison for Jesus, right?

Have a second student read Luke 22:54-62. Ask students to rate how big of a mess up Peter did by rating from 1-10 (1 = no big deal, 10 = a very big mess), indicating their answer with their hands.

**Ask:** How do you think Peter felt? How would you feel in this situation? Do you think you would have done anything different in this situation? (Leader's note: Allow some students to answer on their own time. It's ok if there's a short period of silence to allow them to process. You may have a leader ready to share their answer after 1-2 minutes of silence.)

**Prompt:** Jesus knew that Peter would deny him. Do you think it changed the way Jesus felt about Peter? (Invite answers) We mess up pretty often, and Jesus knows we're going to do it before hand. Do you think it changes the way that Jesus feels about us? (Invite answers)

Have students regroup with their partner. Distribute a copy of Appendix A to each pair.

**Prompt:** We are going to sin at some point in our lives, probably soon. But Jesus died to rid us from the guilt of sin. The Bible tells us to encourage one another as long as it is called today, so each person is going to read the scripture on their card to their partner. Read it with authority as one chosen, gifted, and ordained by Christ! Read it with love, compassion, and encouragement.

After they have done this, invite them to write something they have been struggling with, feel guilty about, or something they feel has been separating them from God on the back of their card. Afterwards, if they choose, invite them to pray for forgiveness of sins.

(Leader's note: Ensure you have leaders available in case some students are not sure how to do so or could like to talk to someone about it.) After, they can crumple up the cards and throw them in the garbage. (Leader's note: Make sure to empty the garbage following the time together.)

## **Consolidate and Debrief**

**Prompt:** Peter was one of Jesus' best friends, and he swore he was willing to go to jail or even die for Jesus if necessary. But when Jesus was arrested Peter got scared and denied him. A lot of times we get scared of what people might say or think, or even of what we think of ourselves. Or maybe we feel we've messed up in other ways. Luckily we serve a God of grace and forgiveness. No matter how many times we mess up he is always right there with us waiting for us to turn back to him. Look for opportunities to stand for Jesus this week...and don't let your fears or doubts get in the way!

**Leader's note:** You may have students in your group who do not consider themselves Christians or who have yet to make that commitment. Encourage them by saying this is a good way to live regardless of belief. This could also be a good starting point to begin a

discussion with them about faith and salvation if you haven't been having those conversations already.

## Appendix A

### Ephesians 2:8-10

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

### Romans 8:38-39

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.