

Peter

Bible Verse: The LORD will protect you on your journeys—whether going or coming. (Psalm 121:8)

Bible Story: Matthew 26:57-58, 69-75

Bible Background

When Jesus called Peter to be his disciple, Peter warned him that he was a sinful man (Luke 5:8). Jesus called Peter to follow him anyway, saying, “Don’t be afraid. From now on, you will be fishing for people” (Luke 5:10).

Last week when we heard the story of Jesus praying in the garden, we heard Jesus tell Peter that Peter would deny Jesus three times before the rooster crowed. Although Peter was determined to prove Jesus wrong, he did not.

Unlike Judas, whose betrayal of Jesus was planned, Peter did not set out to deny Jesus; it just happened. Peter was trying to follow Jesus. After Jesus was arrested, Peter followed along at a distance. As he sat around a fire in the courtyard, the accusations began to come: “You were also with Jesus, the Galilean”; “This man was with Jesus, the man from Nazareth”; “You must be one of them.”

Put yourself in Peter’s place. The Roman soldiers have arrested Jesus, and things are starting to get ugly. Peter was scared. He may have feared his life was in danger, and it might have been. When the accusations began, Peter acted out of self-preservation. He denied his association with Jesus. And then he heard the rooster. When the cock crowed, Peter remembered Jesus’ words. Peter had failed Jesus, even before Jesus’ trial had begun. Peter cried.

Peter did redeem himself. After the Resurrection, Peter became one of Jesus’ most enthusiastic evangelists, spreading the good news far and wide.

Devotion

It can be helpful to remember Peter’s fear. All too often, we see the followers of Jesus as some sort of superhumans, and we think we can never be like them. But Peter and all the rest were very human—they had the same doubts and fears we encounter. Because he was afraid, Peter denied he knew Jesus. Sometimes we don’t do what is right because we are afraid. The good news is that just as Peter was given another chance, so are we. Jesus never denies us.

BASIC

Plan

Bible Beginnings

- Welcome
- Picture the Bible Story
- Bible Puzzle
- Bible Play

Into the Bible

- Time for the Bible Story
- Open the Bible
- Experience the Bible Story
- Say the Bible Verse

Bible Connections

- Peter’s Rooster
- Peter Heard the Rooster
- Crow

Live the Bible

- How Do You Feel?
- Review and Crow

Express Praise

- Praise and Pray
- Blessing

Bible Beginnings

Welcome

Supplies: Class Pack—Attendance Chart, p. 7; CD-ROM; CD player; tape; offering basket

- Display the Attendance Chart (Class Pack) and “Unit 1 Bible Verse Picture” (Class Pack—p. 7) at the children’s eye level.
- Play, “The B-I-B-L-E” (CD-ROM), as you welcome each child.
- Show the children where to place their offerings on the worship table.

SAY: Our Bible story today is about Peter, a friend of Jesus. Peter said Jesus was not his friend, and then Peter heard a rooster crow.

- Point out the Bible Verse Picture, and say the Bible verse for the child.

Picture the Bible Story

Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 36, crayons or markers

- Photocopy “Peter” for each child.
- Give each child a copy of the picture.

SAY: Our Bible story today is about the time when Peter was sitting with other people around a fire, and he said Jesus was not his friend.

- Encourage each child to decorate the picture with crayons or markers.

Bible Puzzle

Supplies: Bible Story Leaflet—Session 5, p. 4; crayons or markers

- Give each child a copy of “Rooster Dot-to-Dot.”
- Encourage the children to connect the dots to draw the rooster.

SAY: A rooster is important in today’s Bible story. After Peter said Jesus was not his friend, Peter heard a rooster crow. Hearing the crow made Peter very sad. He was sorry he said that he didn’t know Jesus.

Bible Play

Supplies: play dough, craft sticks

SAY: A rooster is important in today’s Bible story. After Peter said Jesus was not his friend, Peter heard a rooster crow. Let’s make roosters out of play dough.

- Give each child a lump of play dough. Encourage the children to form the dough into a ball.
- Give each child several craft sticks. Show each child how to stick the craft sticks into the ball to make the rooster’s tail.

SAY: Hearing the crow made Peter very sad. He was sorry he said that he didn’t know Jesus.

Into the Bible

Time for the Bible Story

SAY: Let's pretend we are Jesus' friends going to see Jesus.

- Have the children line up behind you. Say the following action rhyme as you march around the room. End the poem in your story area.

SING: Let's go marching, marching, marching, all around the town.
Let's go marching, marching, marching, up the hills and down.
Let's go marching, marching, marching, 'cause marching is such fun.
Let's go marching, marching, marching to Jesus, God's own Son.

- Have the children sit down.

Open the Bible

Supplies: Bible Basics Storybook—pp. 164–165

- Tell the children the story, "Peter."

Experience the Bible Story

Supplies: CEB Bible; Bible Story Leaflet—Session 5, pp. 2–3

- Show the children the Bible.

TODAY'S BIBLE TOOL: Stories about Jesus are in the New Testament.

SAY: Our Bible is divided into two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament. Stories about Jesus are in the New Testament.

- Show the children the beginning of the New Testament. Then show the children the Book of Matthew. Turn to the twenty-sixth chapter.

SAY: Our Bible story is when Peter denied knowing Jesus. It's chapter twenty-six in the Book of Matthew. Listen and watch as I tell the story.

- Place the Leaflet in your Bible. Tell the children the story, "Peter" from the Bible Story Leaflet, and encourage them to do the motions as suggested.

ASK: How do you think Peter felt when he heard the rooster crow?

SAY: Peter made a bad choice when he said he didn't know Jesus. But this was not the end of Peter and Jesus' friendship. Jesus still loved Peter.

Say the Bible Verse

Supplies: Class Pack—p. 7, Leader Guide—p. 93

- Show the children the Bible Verse Picture. Repeat the verse for the children.
- Teach the children signs from American Sign Language (Leader Guide) to go along with the verse.
- Encourage the children to make the signs as they say the verse again.

Bible Connections

Peter's Rooster

Supplies: red paper plates or inexpensive white paper plates and small pieces of red tissue paper, yellow construction paper, craft feathers, googly eyes, scissors, glue, crayons or markers

- Cut a three- to four-inch square from yellow construction paper for each child.

SAY: A rooster crowed after the third time Peter said Jesus was not his friend. Even though Peter made a bad choice, he was not bad, and Jesus forgave him. The rooster can help us remember that Jesus loves us, no matter what.

- Give each child a paper plate. If you have white plates, let the children glue on red tissue paper. Encourage each child to cover the entire plate with the red paper.
- Give each child a square of the yellow construction paper. Show the children how to fold the square in half to make a triangle.
- Help each child glue the triangle onto the center of the paper plate to make the rooster's beak. Give each child a pair of googly eyes. Let each child glue the eyes to the paper plate above the beak.
- Give each child three or more craft feathers. Encourage the children to glue at least one feather at the top of the paper plate to make the rooster's comb. Let the children glue the other feathers wherever they wish on their roosters.

Peter Heard the Rooster Crow

Supplies: rooster faces made earlier

- Have the children hold their rooster faces and sit down.

SAY: Let's sing a song to help us remember today's story. At the very end of the song, hold up your rooster face and say, "Cock-a-doodle-doo!"

- Sing the song printed below to the tune of "The Muffin Man."

SING: Peter, do you know this man, know this man, know this man?

Peter, do you know this man? He is your friend.

No, I do not know this man, know this man, know this man.

No, I do not know this man. He's not my friend.

Peter heard the rooster crow, rooster crow, rooster crow.

Peter heard the rooster crow. Cock-a-doodle-doo!

Live the Bible

How Do You Feel?

Supplies: CD-ROM, CD player, construction paper, tape, marker

- Draw a question mark on a piece of construction paper.
- Tape construction paper on the floor in a circle for a game similar to a cake walk. Have one paper for each child. Include the question mark in the circle.

SAY: Peter felt afraid, and then he felt sad. We all have lots of feelings. Let's play a game about feelings. Walk around the circle while the music plays. When the music stops, stop walking. If you stopped on the question mark, go to the center of the circle.

- Play the music (CD-ROM) and start walking. Stop the music. Have the child who stopped on the question mark move to the center of the circle.

SAY: Show me how you feel. (*sad, happy, afraid, mad*)

- Let the remaining children guess how the child in the center is feeling. Have the child move back into the circle and continue the game.

Review and Crow

Supplies: rooster faces made earlier

- Have the children hold their rooster faces and sit on the floor.

SAY: Let's remember some of the stories we've learned about Jesus. Listen to what I say. If what I say is true, jump up, hold up your rooster face, and crow as loud as you can, then sit back down. If what I say is not true, stay seated.

SAY: Jesus helped a man by healing his hand. (*Crow.*)

Jesus told his friends to get rid of the children. (*Stay seated.*)

Jesus wanted the children to come to him. (*Crow.*)

Jesus ate bread at a special meal with his friends. (*Crow.*)

Jesus asked his friends to order pizza. (*Stay seated.*)

Jesus went to a garden to pray. (*Crow.*)

Three of Jesus' friends kept falling asleep while Jesus prayed. (*Crow.*)

Peter cried when he heard the rooster crow. (*Crow.*)

Express Praise

Praise and Pray

Supplies: CD-ROM, CD player

- Sing with the children the song, "Hear Us As We Pray," from the CD-ROM. Encourage the children to name any prayer requests.

PRAY: Thank you, God, for our friend, Jesus. Amen.

Blessing

Supplies: none

- Have all the children face one side of the room.

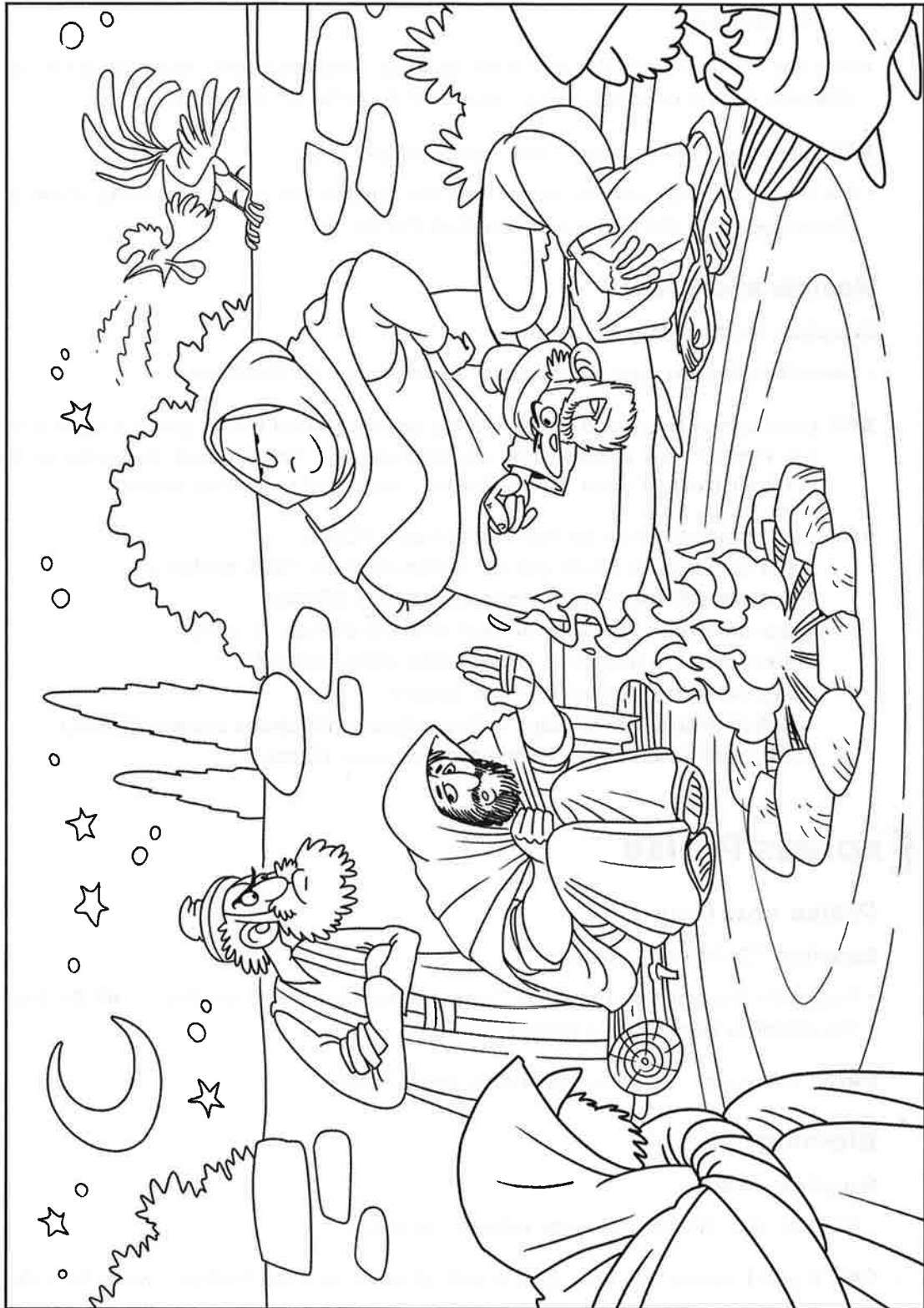
SAY: If you journey this way, God is with you. (*Have the children turn to face the opposite side of the room.*) If you journey this way, God is with you.

- Call each child by name.

SAY: (*Child's name*), God is always with you.

- Continue until you have blessed each child.

Peter



**The LORD will protect you on your journeys—whether going or coming.
Psalm 121:8**

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Rooster Dot-to-Dot

Beginning with the letter *a*, connect the dots in the order of the alphabet to make a rooster. A rooster is an important part of today's Bible story.



Talk About It

Use these questions to talk about today's Bible story with your child.

- How do you think Peter felt when he heard the rooster crow?
- How do you think it feels when someone says, "You're not my friend"?

PRAY: Thank you, God, for our friend Jesus. Amen.

Peter

Matthew
26:57-58, 69-75

The LORD will protect you on your journeys—
whether going or coming.

Psalms 121:8



**Bible
STORY**
BASICS

biblestorybasics.com

Peter

Jesus' friends were afraid.

When the soldiers took Jesus, most of Jesus' friends ran away, but Peter followed Jesus and the soldiers.

The soldiers led Jesus to the house of the high priest. Many people were standing outside the house. Peter quietly stood nearby. He was afraid, but he wanted to know what was happening to Jesus.

"I know you," said a woman to Peter. "You're with Jesus."

"No!" (*Shake your head no.*) said Peter. "I don't even know him!"

"You are one of Jesus' friends," said another woman.

"No!" (*Shake your head no.*) said Peter. "He's not my friend!"

"You must be one of his friends," said a group of people.

"No!" (*Shake your head no.*) said Peter. "I don't know who you're talking about!"

Then Peter heard the rooster crow. (*Have the children stand and say, "Cock-a-doodle-doo!"*)

Peter remembered that Jesus had said, "You will pretend you don't know me three times before the rooster crows."

Peter ran away from the house, crying. He was sorry that he had said Jesus was not his friend.

