

Grace Church Learning Guide / Week of March 4, 2018

DON'T ASK FOR WHOM THE ROOSTER CROWS... / John Ray

Key Text: [John 18:12-27](#) (NET)

THE SET UP

None of us is that different from Peter. We are all “accused” of following Jesus in a variety of ways and situations. What’s our response?

THE BASICS

1. Who was the high priest? Read [Exodus 28](#) and [Leviticus 21:10-14](#).
2. Read a little more about Jesus’ teaching openly in the temple.
[John 2:14](#), [John 5:14](#), [John 7:14](#), [John 8:1-11](#), [Matthew 21:12-13](#),
[Matthew 21: 14-16](#), [Matthew 21:23-46](#)

List one word summarizing each of these teaching experiences;
for example: [John 2:14](#) Restoring

MAP IT

Interested in what archaeologists think the setting of the high priest’s courtyard might have looked like? See [this article](#) with models for more insight.

GRACE IN 3D

Faithfulness Squares As a warm-up activity in your group, give each person a copy of the attached page. Each of the squares lists something that has to do with faithfulness. People should visit among themselves, asking someone else to initial a square, if, for example, they can name a character in a movie who was faithful, even when others weren’t.

THE BOTTOM LINE

- Take some time to consider the answers that are offered by Jesus and by Peter in this story. Dig beneath the obvious to consider what is motivating their respective answers. Who is easier to identify with? Why?

Since both Jesus and Peter are being questioned in this text, what does it teach us?

- Peter is an enigma in the Bible, complex and full of contradiction. We have to be careful not to “pigeonhole” him based on a single story. Consider his response here in light of others, like [Matthew 16:13-20](#) and [Acts 4:1-4](#). Does this help you identify more closely with him? How might you have replied if you were in his position?

If all of us will in some way be accused like Peter, what are we to learn from his response?

- What is it that changes Peter’s denial later to a bold confession? What is it that changes ours? Something Peter witnessed, and that each of us must experience as well, takes away the power of death over us.

When we compare Peter’s response here with how he responds after the resurrection, we find a key experience that likewise promises to change us.

REFLECTION

Lent is a time purposely set apart to help us focus, seriously consider our lives and the effects of our choices, attitudes and actions. We can take the opportunity to submit our imaginations to Jesus’ story. Images, art, song, poetry, and literature are all able to enrich our spiritual growth in this season. If you haven’t already, check out the [Biola Lent Project’s](#) daily devotions.

DEEP TRACKS

- This week’s text is a tale of two interrogations. [Read Meda Stamper’s commentary.](#)
- What if I deny Jesus? Read [this post](#) by Paul Ellis.
- Listen to [Michael Card’s song](#) about Peter. Journal or consider how you relate to Peter’s opportunities and the grace given to him.

THE MASH-UPS

- [Why do we still deny and go back to things we shouldn't?](#) Read this article and spend some time considering what triggers your fright and flight response.
- How can we grow in our faithfulness? In [this blogpost](#), Nicky Gumbel challenges us to model God's faithfulness.

GRACE IN THE MOMENT

How do you start your day? Some life and career coaches refer to your first hour as "Your Miracle Morning," or "The Golden Hour." In this week's blogpost, Teri Naylor reflects on her top-of-the-morning rethink after reading Liturgy of the Ordinary by Tish Harrison Warren.

Looking Ahead: For the next couple of weeks we look at Jesus' interaction with Pilate in [John 18:28-40](#). There's so much for us to learn from this exchange.

JOURNAL

Each day, read the scripture with emphasis on the bolded text. Spend some time in prayer and reflection, journaling about the effect of this scripture in your life.

Monday: 25 **Meanwhile** Simon Peter was standing in the courtyard warming himself. They said to him, "You aren't one of his disciples too, are you?" Peter denied it: "I am not!" 26 One of the high priest's slaves, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, said, "Did I not see you in the orchard with him?" 27 Then Peter denied it again, and immediately the rooster crowed.

Tuesday: 25 **Meanwhile** Simon Peter was standing in the courtyard warming himself. They said to him, "**You aren't one of his disciples too, are you?**" Peter denied it: "I am not!" 26 One of the high priest's slaves, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, said, "Did I not see you in the orchard with him?" 27 Then Peter denied it again, and immediately the rooster crowed.

Wednesday: 25 Meanwhile Simon Peter was standing in the courtyard warming himself. They said to him, “You aren’t one of his disciples too, are you?” **Peter denied it: “I am not!”** 26 One of the high priest’s slaves, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, said, “Did I not see you in the orchard with him?” 27 Then Peter denied it again, and immediately the rooster crowed.

Thursday: 25 Meanwhile Simon Peter was standing in the courtyard warming himself. They said to him, “You aren’t one of his disciples too, are you?” Peter denied it: “I am not!” 26 One of the high priest’s slaves, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, said, **“Did I not see you in the orchard with him?”** 27 Then Peter denied it again, and immediately the rooster crowed.

Friday: 25 Meanwhile Simon Peter was standing in the courtyard warming himself. They said to him, “You aren’t one of his disciples too, are you?” Peter denied it: “I am not!” 26 One of the high priest’s slaves, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, said, “Did I not see you in the orchard with him?” 27 **Then Peter denied it again,** and immediately the rooster crowed.

Saturday: 25 Meanwhile Simon Peter was standing in the courtyard warming himself. They said to him, “You aren’t one of his disciples too, are you?” Peter denied it: “I am not!” 26 One of the high priest’s slaves, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, said, “Did I not see you in the orchard with him?” 27 Then Peter denied it again, **and immediately the rooster crowed.**