

Stowmarket Baptist Church

THURSDAY BIBLE CLUB

We hope that you enjoy this week's Bible story.

We are praying that you are all kept safe that that we can all meet up again on a Thursday soon.

This week's story is about Peter and you can read it in the Bible in Matthew chapter 26 verses 31-35 & 58-75.

³¹ Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written:

"I will strike the shepherd,
and the sheep of the flock will be scattered."^[E]

³² But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

³³ Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will."

³⁴ "Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times."

³⁵ But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same.

⁵⁸ But Peter followed him at a distance, right up to the courtyard of the high priest. He entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome.

⁵⁹ The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. ⁶⁰ But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward.

Finally two came forward ⁶¹ and declared, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'"

⁶² Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" ⁶³ But Jesus remained silent.

The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God."

⁶⁴ "You have said so," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."^[E]

⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. ⁶⁶ What do you think?" "He is worthy of death," they answered.

⁶⁷ Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him ⁶⁸ and said, "Prophecy to us, Messiah. Who hit you?"

Peter Disowns Jesus

⁶⁹ Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said.

⁷⁰ But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said.

⁷¹ Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth."

⁷² He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!"

⁷³ After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away."

⁷⁴ Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!"

Immediately a rooster crowed. ⁷⁵ Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Peter was always happy when Jesus was talking to him. But one day he was very sad. Jesus said he was going to die, wicked people were going to kill Him, and all His friends would leave Him. They would all run away.

"No!" said Peter, "I won't. If everyone else runs away and leaves - I will never leave you"

But this is a sad story... Peter did!

Jesus told him he would - and very soon. Before the cock crowed in the morning!

Wicked people took hold of Jesus. They brought him to the palace of the high priest. Peter followed, to see what would happen. There was Jesus, being cruelly treated. They were saying untrue things about Him. Some were hitting Him. Some were splitting on Him.

There was Peter. A girl said, "You are one of Jesus' friends." But can you believe it? Peter said he was not. Poor Peter! He was frightened. Perhaps they would catch him, and kill him.

It was a cold night. There was a lovely warm fire and Peter went near it to get warm. Another girl said, "You are one of Jesus's followers." But how sad! Again, Peter said, "No".

And then when those standing by told they knew he was a friend and follower of Jesus, Peter became angry, and started to shout and swear that he did not even know this man Jesus. How sad.

But what was that sound?

Yes, a cock crowing. And Peter remembered all that Jesus had said. He looked up - and there Jesus was looking at him sadly.

Poor Peter! He went out and cried like a little child. He was so sorry. He was ashamed of himself. Would Jesus forgive him? Did Jesus still love him? We know He did.

What a wonderful thing that Jesus forgives those who are really sorry for their sins!

