



elev8

life on another level

Student Workbook

YEAR 3

**The Gospel
of John**
Denial and Forgiveness

Bible Readings
John 17 to 21



Learning Outcomes

At the end of this week you will be able to:

- understand that God sees the future in detail (Mark 14 : 20) as he predicted Peter's denial.
- see that Jesus still loved Peter even though he denied his Lord before other people.

Notes from Bible Reading

Scripture A word or phrase that stood out to me:

Observation What is happening in this Bible reading?

Application Something that I learned about who I am or how I should live:

Prayer What I would like to say to God, ask of God, or what I think God is saying to me:

Key Question How does God react when I don't fully stand up for what I believe?

Engage

Go around the group and share one thing for each heading that has happened since you last met:

- Plus – What has been good or enjoyable?
- Minus – What has been difficult or painful?
- Interesting – What has been unusual or thought provoking?

What makes it difficult to speak up for God in front of other people?

Explore – Locate

- *What stood out to you in the Bible readings this week?*
- *What did you find meaningful or significant?*
- *Is there anything that you didn't understand or found confusing?*
- *Any questions or comments you may have?*

Read together: John 18 : 15-27

In Mark's version of this story (Mark 14:20) Jesus predicts the fact that Peter was going to deny him. Peter strenuously argued and said that he would never do such a thing.

John explains that Peter had 3 opportunities to be counted as a disciple of Jesus. Each time Peter denied it. Mark indicates that Peter's aggression increased with each denial with the final time including curses and swearing (Mark 14:71)

In some ways this was a 1st century example of peer pressure (and how not to react!). Incidentally some historians place the third denial to be in the middle of the night – not the usual time for a rooster to crow!

After Jesus' resurrection he asked if Peter loved him (some suggest that he asked the question 3 times – once for each denial). Jesus then asked Peter to 'feed his lambs and sheep'. A clear indication that Jesus didn't hold a grudge but had accepted him back into the group.

Explore – Express

Create a drama of a real life situation at school where you have an opportunity to witness for God.

Write 2 different endings – one where you react like Peter did and an alternative where you stand up for God.

Explore – Integrate

- Give an example of when you wish you had stood up for what you believe.
- When did you 'stand up' for God?
- Have you seen people giving details of their faith – what did they say?

Extend

Discuss with your group the challenges you are tackling. Use the time to ask for any help you might need, or to work together on any shared projects that you have.

Questions that may be helpful include:

- What challenges are you working on at the moment?
- Do you need any support or assistance?
- Are there any challenges that you have completed that we need to recognise and celebrate?
- Are there any new challenges that you want to work on?

Encourage

Tell another student in your group something you value or appreciate about them.

Share one thing you would like to pray for and pray for one another.

Thank you for your forgiveness for the times I have let you down and denied you. Lord, help me to be strong and take every opportunity to speak of you. Show me that people will continue to respect me and that they will become closer to you.

Amen.