



## STORY

6/26/06

Jesus Before the High Priest and Peter's Denial— Matthew 26:57-75; 27:3-10; Mark 14:53-72; Luke 22:54-71; John 18:12-27

## TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus, as I read once again how You suffered great humiliation to pay for my sins, my heart is filled with gratitude. As I read once again how Your disciples all abandoned and denied You, I am filled with awe that still You remained faithful. As I contemplate all that You suffered for my sins, it is my desire now to thank You with my life. It is therefore my prayer that I might continue to experience Your hand in my life, as I struggle to teach Your little lambs the truth concerning Your suffering and death. Work powerfully in their hearts through Your Word, and make me an able witness. Amen.

## VOCABULARY

*Sanhedrin* — The Jewish Supreme Court, made up of 70 men of pure Jewish descent plus the High Priest. The Sanhedrin tried cases that did not fall under Roman jurisdiction, such as heresy and idolatry. They had their own police force and could both make arrests and pronounce the death sentence, but they had no authority to carry out such a sentence.

*Adjure* — to place someone under oath. This was the Jewish equivalent to swearing in.

*Blasphemy* — speaking evil of God, or claiming for oneself anything that belongs to God, especially His power, praise, or glory. For the Jews this was a crime punishable by death.

## OUTER AIM

Jesus was tried and abused by the Jews and denied by Peter.

## INNER AIM

Though forsaken and abused by all mankind, Jesus chose to lay down His life for us all.

## BACKGROUND

*(Rupprecht Bible History References Vol.)*

It was Thursday night (early Friday to the Jews) about 3 a.m. when Jesus was arrested. It was a mixed crowd of both Romans and Jews that took captive the Son of God. Jesus was taken first to Annas, the former high priest, who was the father-in-law of the high priest that year, Caiaphas. Annas was the real power behind the office. Ironically, the Jews broke several of their own laws in their attempt to convict Jesus of criminal activity. Preliminary examination of the accused was forbidden by Jewish law — which is exactly what took place when they took Jesus to Annas. Nor were the Jews permitted to convene the Sanhedrin before the morning sacrifice (which they did anyway) or on the day of, or prior to, any major festival. The Jews were therefore breaking several of their own laws in their irrational attempt to convict and condemn the sinless Son of God.

v. 57-58

- ▶ Matthew, Mark, and Luke do not mention the illegal preliminary examination of Jesus before Annas. Why the arresting party would take Jesus to Annas first is uncertain. It could be an indication that Annas still represented the real power of the office of high priest.
- ▶ (Note that the officer who slapped Jesus in John 18:22 even referred to Annas as if he were still the high priest.)

- ▶ Or it could have been that they took Jesus there simply because Annas' residence was closest to Gethsemane, where Jesus was arrested.
- ▶ Jesus was then taken to Caiaphas, where the scribes and elders had gathered. - Peter did not immediately abandon Jesus. In fear, however, he distanced himself from his Lord.

#### v. 59-63

- ▶ This was the epitome of an unfair trial.
- ▶ Those entrusted with justice in Israel were in no way concerned with the truth.
- ▶ They did not weigh the evidence to establish a just verdict.
- ▶ They first established a false verdict and then brought false evidence to support it.
- ▶ It is no wonder therefore that their false witnesses could not agree.
- ▶ Note that Jesus never said anything about destroying the temple in Jerusalem. The temple He was going to rebuild after three days was His own body.
- ▶ How frustrating to the high priest that Jesus would not answer these false charges.
- ▶ The evidence was not there to convict Jesus.
- ▶ The high priest no doubt hoped that Jesus might say something in their presence that they could then use to convict Him. Caiaphas therefore placed Jesus under oath in an attempt to elicit a statement.

#### v. 64-66

- ▶ Jesus accepted the fact that Caiaphas has placed Him under oath and spoke the truth, proclaiming Himself to be the Christ, the Son of God.
- ▶ The high priest tore his clothes to dramatize his "horror" at what he called "blasphemy" on the part of Jesus.
- ▶ Note that this too was an illegal act on the part of the high priest, who was strictly forbidden from doing so (cf. Leviticus 21:10).

#### v. 67-68

- ▶ Spitting in someone's face was considered the worst insult possible by the Jews.
- ▶ Once the death sentence was pronounced, Jesus became fair game for any and all abuse and ridicule, though this treatment also preceded His sentence.
- ▶ What hatred they displayed toward the sinless Son of God, their own Savior!

#### v. 69-75

- ▶ John, who was known to the high priest, arranged for Peter to be admitted into the courtyard of the high priest. (John 18:15-16)
- ▶ Nothing is known of John's words and actions while Peter was denying his Lord.
- ▶ Note the progression of Peter's denial. He began with a simple denial. The second time he denied with an oath. Finally he added cursing and swearing to make himself believable.
- ▶ Peter's Galilean accent gave him away, no doubt as conspicuous in Jerusalem as a southern accent in the northern United States or a northern accent in the South.
- ▶ While Mark records that Jesus said, "Before the rooster crows twice you will deny me three times," the other three gospels record only one crowing of the rooster.
- ▶ Jesus no doubt said both things in the course of His conversation with Peter. Mark, who was probably guided by Peter in the writing of his Gospel, records finer detail.
- ▶ Matthew, Luke, and John record only "the crowing of the rooster" as Jesus' reference to sunrise.
- ▶ Thus Jesus very likely first said to Peter, "Before the rooster crows (i.e., before the sun rises) you will deny me three times."
- ▶ We could imagine Peter's objection. Mark then records Jesus' further statement, "Before the rooster crows twice you will deny me three times." Both statements are true. Matthew, Luke, and John refer to sunrise, Mark to the actual sound of a rooster crowing.
- ▶ Luke records for us that the Lord turned and looked at Peter after the third denial.
- ▶ What a dagger to the heart of proud Peter!
- ▶ He went out and wept bitterly, knowing, unlike Judas, that he could do nothing to pay for his sin.

## STUDENT PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank You for suffering so much to pay for my sins. Give me a strong, humble faith that I might never deny You as my Lord and Savior. Help me to remember how important it is for me to boldly tell others that I believe that You are the only Savior of the world. When I do fall into sin, help me to repent of my sin as Peter did. Amen.

## PRESENTATION

Since there are important parts of this lesson scattered throughout the four gospels, the teacher should use the harmony that has been prepared or tell the story in his/her own words — taking note of the various points found in the four different accounts.

## APPLICATIONS

1. Jesus, in answering the "I adjure thee" of the high priest, took an oath. We can learn from this that taking an oath is not a sin. It is swearing falsely or frivolously that is a sin. We may in good conscience take an oath when necessary for the glory of our God or the good of our neighbor. In our everyday conversation however, our yes should be yes, and our no, no. (See Matthew 5:37 below.)
2. Telling the truth was so important to God that He dedicated a commandment to it. God hates a false witness in part because it was false witnesses who condemned His own Son.
3. The Jewish leaders were willing to sin to accomplish their goals. Jesus said in Matthew 7:20, "By their fruits you will know them." Those who will sin to get what they want are not working to please their Lord, who desires obedience from His children. List some ways we might be tempted to sin to get what we want.
4. We are the ones who should have been put on trial, not Jesus. We have sin, he had none. We deserve to be punished, Jesus did not. Yet Jesus was guilty! Not according to the justice of man, but according to God's justice. God made Jesus to be sin for us. Because of this, Jesus was made the worst sinner the world has ever seen. How the Father must have loved us to condemn His own Son in this way!

## PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

### Lower

Exodus 20:16 - You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Proverbs 16:18 - Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

Isaiah 53:6 - The LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

### Middle any of the above and...

Matthew 5:37 - But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

2 Corinthians 5:21 - For (God) made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Proverbs 19:5 - A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies will not escape.

Upper any of the above and...

Isaiah 53:7 - He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.

Romans 3:23-24 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 26:64 - Jesus said to him, ".....I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."

## **HYMN CHOICES**

"O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken?" (TLH #143:1-3)

"Christ, the Life of All the Living" (TLH #151:1,2 & 5)

"Go to Dark Gethsemane" (TLH #159:1-2)

# Jesus Before the High Priest

## Peter's Denial

Matthew 26:57-75; Mark 14:53-72; Luke 22:54-71; John 18:12-27

### The Story

Parents: Review this lesson with your child.

Jesus' enemies took Him to the house of the high priest. They wanted to find a reason to put Jesus to death. The high priest asked Jesus, "Are you Christ, the Son of God?" Jesus answered, "I am."

The high priest pretended to be very angry. He tore his robe and shouted, "This is a lie!" He turned to Jesus' enemies and said, "What do you think of this man?" They answered, "He is guilty and must die!" The Roman soldiers who were holding Jesus hit Him, spit on Him, and made fun of Him.

When Jesus had been taken prisoner back in the Garden of Gethsemane, Peter had run away. After a time Peter began to wonder what was happening to Jesus. He turned back and followed the crowd to the high priest's house.

While Jesus was being questioned by the high priest, Peter waited in the yard to see what would happen. There were others waiting with Peter. Three times he was asked, "Aren't you one of Jesus' disciples?" Peter was afraid. Three times he answered, "I am not. I do not even know the man!"

A rooster crowed. Peter looked up and saw Jesus being led past. Jesus looked sadly at him. He knew Peter would betray him and had even warned him. Then Peter remembered how Jesus had warned him, "Peter, before the rooster crows twice, you will say three times that you do not even know me!" Peter felt so sorry for his sin that he went out and cried. But he also believed that Jesus would forgive him.

Judas, the disciple who had betrayed Jesus, was also very sad about his sin. He hanged himself because he felt his sin was too

bad for Jesus to forgive. But we know that the Bible tells us that Jesus died on the cross for all sins, for all people.

This is the good news that we want to tell everybody.

**Jesus suffered for us because He loves all people.**

### Passage

"The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."  
Isaiah 53:6

### Hymn "Jesus Loves Me"

Jesus loves me this I know  
For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong  
They are weak but He is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me ... The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me, He who died.  
Heaven's gates to open wide.  
He will wash away my sin.  
Let His little child come in.  
Yes, Jesus loves me ... The Bible tells me so.

### Prayer

Dear Jesus,  
Thank You for suffering so much to pay for my sins. Amen



**Classroom Activity** Cut out the strips of paper below and pass one out to each child. Read each child's paper and see if they can say the answer to the riddle. Play this more than once if time allows for more review.

Jesus was taken to my house by His enemies. Hint: I am also one of Jesus' enemies.  
*High Priest*

I am Jesus' disciple who waited outside to see what would happen to Jesus.  
*Peter*

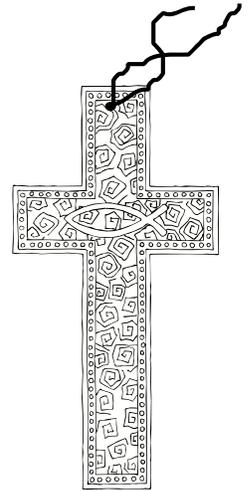
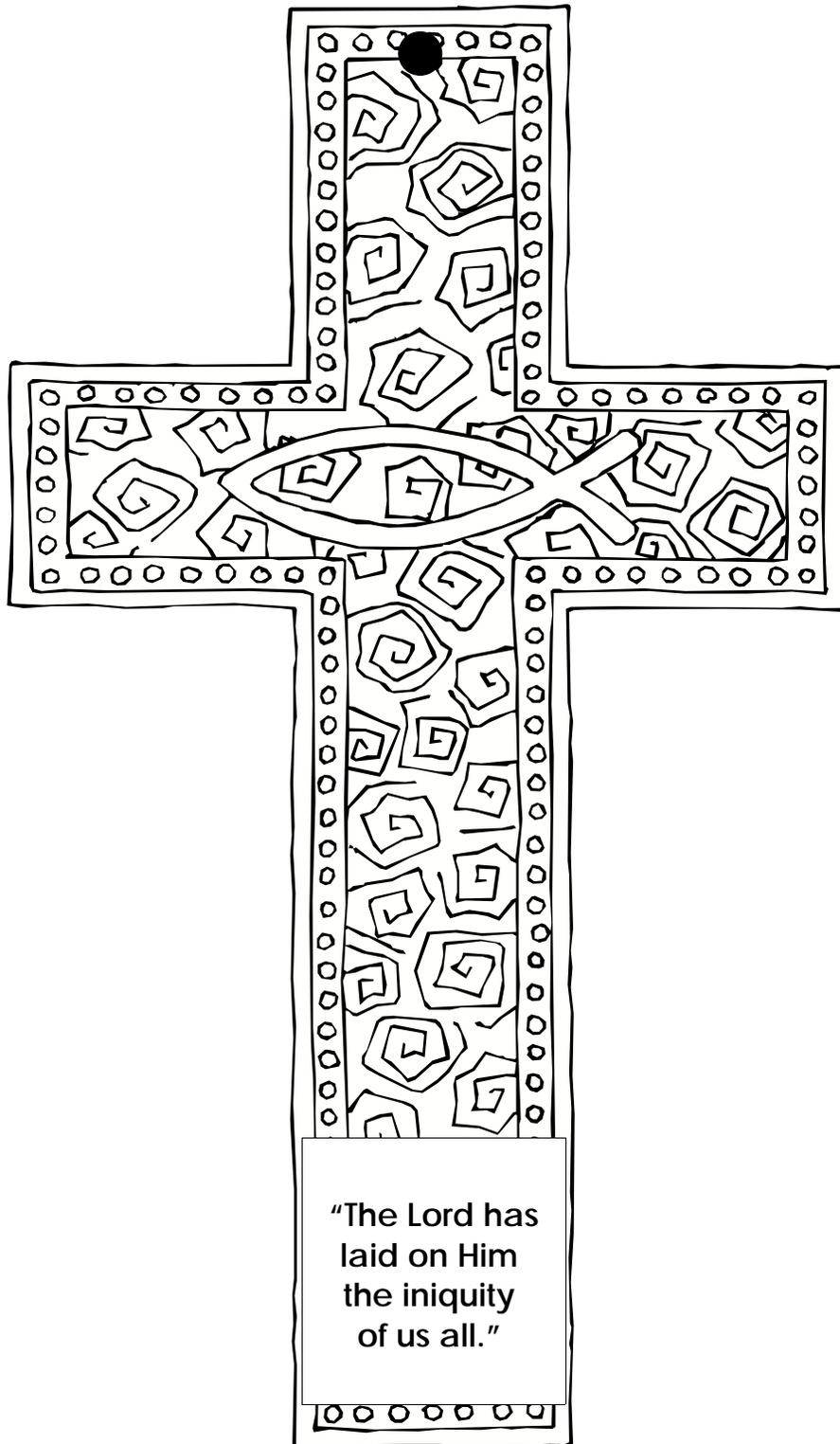
I made a noise when Peter said he did not know Jesus.  
Hint: I go cock-a-doodle-doo  
*Rooster*

I took money and betrayed Jesus to His enemies.  
*Judas*

We Roman soldiers did this to Jesus because He was our enemy.  
*Hit and spit on Jesus and made fun of Him.*

I love the whole world and died on the cross to save them from their sins.  
*Jesus*

**Classroom Art Activity** - Help the children color and cut out the cross. You may wish to back it with construction paper and decorate with glitter glue or sequins.





# Jesus Before the High Priest Peter's Denial

Matthew 26:57-75; Mark 14:53-72; Luke 22:54-71; John 18:12-27



## The Story

Jesus' enemies took Him to the house of the high priest. They wanted to find a reason to put Jesus to death. The high priest asked Jesus, "Are you Christ, the Son of God?" Jesus answered, "I am."

The high priest pretended to be very angry. He tore his robe and shouted, "This is a lie!" He turned to Jesus' enemies and said, "What do you think of this man?" They answered, "He is guilty and must die!" The Roman soldiers who were holding Jesus hit Him, spit on Him, and made fun of Him.

When Jesus had been taken prisoner back in the Garden of Gethsemane, Peter had run away. After a time Peter began to wonder what was happening to Jesus. He turned back and followed the crowd to the high priest's house.

While Jesus was being questioned by the high priest, Peter waited in the yard to see what would happen. There were others

waiting with Peter. Three times he was asked, "Aren't you one of Jesus' disciples?" Peter was afraid. Three times he answered, "I am not. I do not even know the man!"

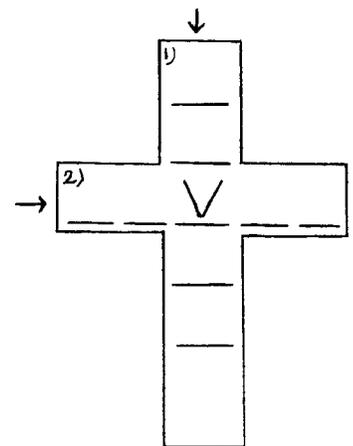
A rooster crowed. Peter looked up and saw Jesus being led past. Jesus looked sadly at him. He knew Peter would betray him and had even warned him. Then Peter remembered how Jesus had warned him, "Peter, before the rooster crows twice, you will say three times that you do not even know me!" Peter felt so sorry for his sin that he went out and cried. But he also believed that Jesus would forgive him.

Judas, the disciple who had betrayed Jesus, was also very sad about his sin. He hanged himself because he felt his sin was too bad for Jesus to forgive. But we know that the Bible tells us that Jesus died on the cross for all sins, for all people.

This is the good news that we want to tell everybody.

## Activity One

When we think of Jesus dying for us on the cross, we know Jesus 1) loved us and Jesus 2) saved us from our sins. Write the underlined words in the cross puzzle.



**Activity Two** - God does not want us to lie. In the 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment He says, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." (Ex. 20:16) In Colossians 3:9 the Bible says, "Do not lie to one another." In our story today many lies were told. Write on the blank the name of the person who spoke or believed each of the statements below? Draw a happy or sad face to show whether the statement was the truth 😊 or whether it was a lie ☹.

Who...

... believed his sin against Jesus was too great to be forgiven?

\_\_\_\_\_

... shouted, "This is a lie!"?

\_\_\_\_\_

... said, "I do not even know the man!"?

\_\_\_\_\_

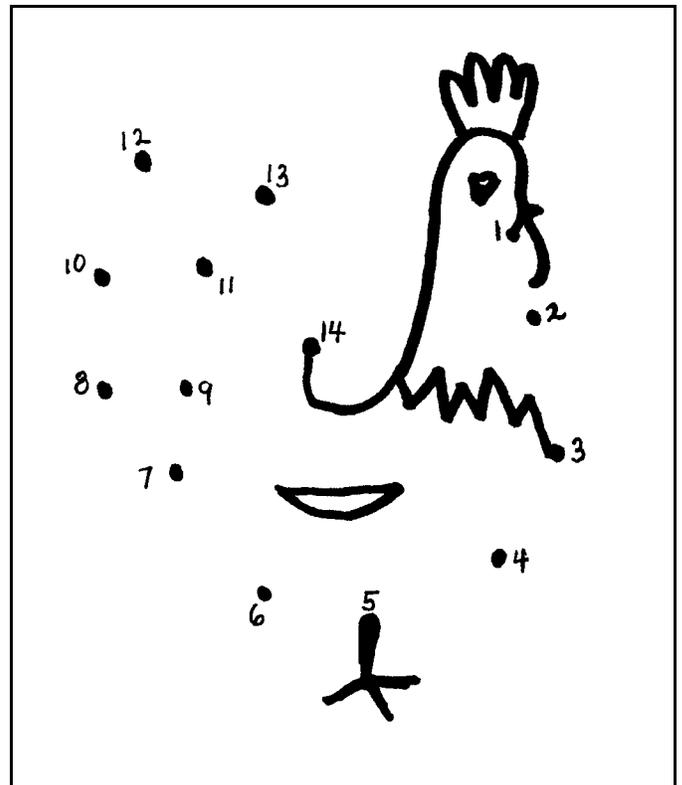
... said, "Yes, I am the Christ, the Son of God."?

**Passage**

**"The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:6**

**Activity Three** - Finish the Dot-to-Dot drawing in the box and you will see another character from the story.

- ▶ What part did this character play in the story?
- ▶ How did Peter feel about his sin?
- ▶ How did Judas feel about his sin?
- ▶ What does the Bible say about our sins? (See the cross puzzle on page 2 for the Bible passage.)



**Prayer**

Dear Jesus, thank You for suffering so much to pay for my sins. Amen

# Jesus Before the High Priest Peter's Denial

Matthew 26:57-75; Mark 14:53-72; Luke 22:54-71; John 18:12-27



## The Story

Jesus' enemies took Him to the house of the high priest. They wanted to find a reason to put Jesus to death. The high priest asked Jesus, "Are you Christ, the Son of God?" Jesus answered, "I am."

Now the high priest pretended to be very angry! He tore his robe and shouted, "This is a lie!" He turned to Jesus' enemies and said, "What do you think of this man?" They answered, "He is guilty and must die!" The soldiers who were holding Jesus hit Him, spit on Him, and made fun of Him.

When Jesus had been taken prisoner back in the Garden of Gethsemane, Peter had run away. After a time he began to wonder what was happening to Jesus. He turned back and followed the crowd to the high priest's house. While Jesus was being questioned by the high priest, Peter waited in the yard to see what would happen. There were others waiting with Peter. Three times he was asked, "Aren't you one of Jesus' disciples?" Peter was afraid. Three times he answered, "I am not. I do not even know the man!"

A rooster crowed. Peter looked up and saw Jesus being led past. Jesus looked sadly at him. Then Peter remembered how Jesus had warned him, "Peter, before the rooster crows twice, you will say three times that you do not even know me!" Peter felt so sorry for his sin that he went out and cried. But he also believed that Jesus would forgive him.

Judas, the disciple who had betrayed Jesus, was also very sad about his sin. He hanged himself because he felt his sin was too bad for Jesus to forgive. But we know that the Bible tells us that Jesus died on the cross for all sins, for all people. That is the good news that we want to tell everybody.

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**Jesus was tried and abused by the Jews and denied by Peter.**

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**Passages** - Match three parts of each Bible passage with a different colored line.

- |                 |                     |                      |                                |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Matthew 5:37•   | •But let your•      | •bear false witness• | •haughty spirit before a fall. |
| Exodus 20:16•   | •You shall not•     | •has laid on Him•    | •your 'No' be 'No'.            |
| Proverbs 16:18• | •Pride goes before• | •'Yes' be 'Yes'•     | •against your neighbor.        |
| Isaiah 53:6•    | •The LORD•          | •destruction, and a• | •the iniquity of us all.       |

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**Jesus chose to lay down His life for us all.**

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**Activity One** - Circle ten words from the story.

- SINS  
DIE  
CROSS  
FORGIVE  
LIE  
CHRIST  
DISCIPLE  
GETHSEMANE  
SORRY  
CROW

G	B	G	C	H	J	M	V
E	C	H	R	I	S	T	I
T	D	K	O	L	L	N	D
H	Z	A	S	P	W	I	I
S	I	N	S	B	S	U	E
E	F	Q	G	C	Y	M	K
M	W	O	I	C	R	S	L
A	U	P	Y	R	R	O	S
N	L	D	H	N	S	E	W
E	F	O	R	G	I	V	E

## Activity 2 - Discuss these questions.

1. Why did Jesus' enemies want to put Him to death?
2. Could Jesus have gotten away?
3. Why didn't He get Himself free?
4. Peter and Judas both sinned against Jesus. Did Jesus die for both of their sins?
5. Why was one man saved and the other lost in hell?

## Hymn - TLH 151 v. 3, 4

Thou hast borne the smiting only  
That my wounds might all be whole;  
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,  
Rest to give my weary soul;  
Yea, the curse of God enduring,  
Blessing unto me securing,  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Heartless scoffers did surround Thee,  
Treating Thee with shameful scorn  
And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee,  
All disgrace Thou, Lord, has borne  
That as Thine Thou mightest own me  
And with heavenly glory crown me.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

## Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for suffering so much to pay for my sins. Amen.

# Jesus Before the High Priest

## Peter's Denial

Matthew 26:57-75; Mark 14:53-72; Luke 22:54-71; John 18:12-27

What does the sound of a rooster mean on a farm?

What did the rooster's crow mean to Peter as he stood in the courtyard of the high priest?

### Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

We can't begin to imagine the loneliness and pain felt by Your Son, Jesus, as He was rejected and denied before His death. He even loved us sinners enough to die for us. Thank You, Lord, for sending Him to us, so that we will never know that feeling of complete rejection, but always have the certain knowledge of forgiveness through Him. In Jesus' name, Amen.



### The Story - A Harmony of the Gospels

After Jesus was arrested, the soldiers and the chief priests led him to Annas. He was the father-in-law of the high priest, Caiaphas. Peter followed them at a distance to the high priest's courtyard, where he went in and sat with the servants warming themselves at the fire.

Annas asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine. Jesus answered him, "I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing. Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them. Indeed they know what I said."

One of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, "Do You answer the high priest like that?" Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?" Then Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas.

Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council looked for false witnesses to tell lies about Jesus so He'd be put to death, but they found none. Finally two false witnesses came forward, but their stories didn't agree. At last they said, "This man said He could destroy the temple and build it in three days." The high priest said to



Jesus, "Do You answer nothing?" Jesus kept silent.

Caiaphas said, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" Jesus answered, "It is as you said, nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "We don't need any more witnesses. He has spoken blasphemy!" The others agreed, saying, "He deserves to die!" Some of the soldiers mocked Jesus, spit on Him, and beat Him. They put a blindfold on Him, hit Him on the face and said, "Prophecy! Who is the one who struck You?"

As Peter was waiting in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came. When she saw Peter, she said, "You also were with Jesus of Nazareth." But Peter denied it, saying, "I don't know what you're talking about." He went out on the porch, and the rooster crowed. The servant girl saw him again, and said to those nearby, "This is one of them." But Peter denied it again.

A while later, those who stood by said to Peter again, "Surely you are one of them; for you are a Galilean, and your speech shows it." Then Peter began to curse and swear, "I do not know this Man you are talking about!" The rooster crowed again, and the Lord

turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the words of Jesus, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So Peter went out and wept bitterly.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests and elders came together and led Jesus into their council, saying, "If You are the Christ, tell us." But He said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, nor will you let Me go. Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God." They asked, "Are You then the Son of God?" So He said to them, "You rightly say that I am." They said, "What further witnesses do we need? We've heard it ourselves from His own mouth."

Then Judas, seeing that Jesus had been condemned, was full of sadness. He brought the thirty pieces of silver back to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." They answered, "What does that matter to us? You see to it!" Judas threw the money down in the temple, left, and hanged himself. The chief priests and elders took the money and bought the potter's field to bury strangers in. From then on, it was known as the Field of Blood. This fulfilled a prophecy by Jeremiah which said, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, and gave them for the potter's field, as the LORD directed me."

## **Recalling Details** - Underline the correct choice in each sentence.

1. The soldiers led Jesus first to [Annas – Caiaphas].
2. [Many – Few] false witnesses were found to testify against Jesus.

3. Some of the [chief priests – soldiers] blindfolded, hit, and mocked Jesus.
4. Peter denied Jesus [twice – three times].
5. [Judas – Peter] was so sorrowful, he went and hanged himself.

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### **Outer Aim**

**Jesus was tried and abused by the Jews and denied by Peter.**

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### **Discussion Questions**

1. Did Jesus receive a fair trial? Why or why not?
2. What is blasphemy?
3. Why was it impossible for Jesus to be guilty of blasphemy?
4. What was the difference between Judas' sorrow and Peter's sorrow?

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### **Inner Aim**

**Though forsaken and abused by all mankind, Jesus chose to lay down His life for us all.**

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## Passages

**2 Corinthians 5:21 – For (God) made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**

**Proverbs 19:5 – A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies will not escape.**

**Hymn** - Read or sing TLH 143, stanzas 1-3.

O dearest Jesus, what law hast Thou broken  
That such sharp sentence should on Thee be spoken?  
Of what great crime hast Thou to make confession -  
What dark transgression?

Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?  
It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must languish;  
Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost inherit,  
This I do merit.

1. What was the mood of the writer of this hymn?
2. Stanza 3 asks the question "What is the cause of Jesus' sufferings?" What is the answer, according to the rest of the stanza?

## Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for suffering so much to pay for my sins. Give me a strong, humble faith that I might never deny You as my Lord and Savior. Help me to remember how important it is for me to boldly tell others that I believe that You are the only Savior of the world. When I do fall into sin, help me to repent of my sins as Peter did, and to be assured that those sins have been forgiven. Amen.

# Jesus Before the High Priest

## Peter's Denial

Matthew 26:57-75; Mark 14:53-72; Luke 22:54-71; John 18:12-27

Think of two words that together describe the pictures' relationship together.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
(sin & forgiveness)

### The Story - A Harmony of the Gospels

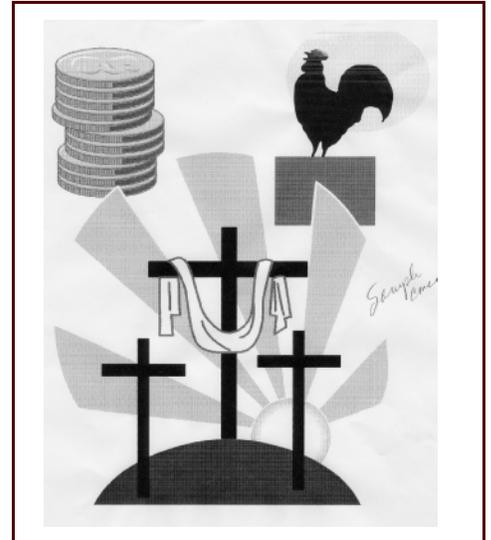
And they led Him away to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was high priest that year. Now it was Caiaphas who advised the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people. Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest's courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants and warmed himself at the fire.

The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine. Jesus answered him, "I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing. Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them. Indeed they know what I said." And when He had said these things, one of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, "Do You answer the high priest like that?" Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?" Then Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony

against Jesus to put Him to death, but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came forward and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.' " Not even then did their testimony agree. And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?" But Jesus kept silent.

And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" Jesus said to him, "*It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.*" Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of



death." Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck *Him* with the palms of their hands, saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?" Now the men who held Jesus mocked Him and beat Him. And having blindfolded Him, they struck Him on the face and asked Him, saying, "Prophecy! Who is the one who struck You?" And many other things they blasphemously spoke against Him.

Now as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came. And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with Jesus of Nazareth." But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you are saying." And he went out on the porch, and a rooster crowed. And the servant girl saw him again, and began to say to those who stood by, "This is one of them." But he denied it again.

And a little later those who stood by said to Peter again, "Surely you are one of them; for you are a Galilean, and your speech shows *it*." Then he began to curse and swear, "I do not know this Man of whom you speak!" A second time *the* rooster crowed.

And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "**Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.**" So Peter went out and wept bitterly.

As soon as it was day, the elders of

the people, both chief priests and scribes, came together and led Him into their council, saying, "**If You are the Christ, tell us.**" But He said to them, "**If I tell you, you will by no means believe. And if I also ask you, you will by no means answer Me or let Me go. Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God.**" Then they all said, "Are You then the Son of God?" So He said to them, "**You rightly say that I am.**" And they said, "What further testimony do we need? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth."

Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And they said, "What is *that* to us? You see *to it!*" Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.

But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood." And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, and gave them for the potter's field, as the LORD directed me."

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## Outer Aim

**Jesus was tried and abused by the Jews and denied by Peter.**

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**Story Details** - The arrest of Jesus was the beginning of many events that led to Jesus' death. Put these events in order as to when they happened.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| _____ Jesus led to the Council of the Elders | _____ Jesus turns toward Peter               |
| _____ Jesus before Caiaphas, the High Priest | _____ Judas throws down the silver pieces    |
| _____ Peter denies knowing Jesus             | _____ Jesus in front of Annas                |
| _____ Jesus accused of blasphemy             | _____ Rooster crows for the second time      |
| _____ False witnesses sought against Jesus   | _____ Jesus asked to prophesy who struck Him |
| _____ Peter weeps bitterly                   | _____ Judas hangs himself                    |

**Matching** - Match to whom Jesus said these words by drawing lines between items.

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| To Peter•                 | • Jesus said, "I spoke openly to the world..."                 |
| To Caiaphas•              | • Jesus said, "It is as you said..."                           |
| To the Council of Elders• | • Jesus said, "Before the rooster crows..."                    |
| To Annas•                 | • Jesus said, "If I tell you, you will by no means believe..." |

## Passage

Isaiah prophesied of Jesus' arrest and trial in Isaiah 53:7 -

**"He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth."**

How does this prophesy fit in today's story?

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## Inner Aim

**Though forsaken and abused by all mankind, Jesus chose to lay down His life for us all.**

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## How Does This Apply To Us

The trial continued and Jesus was pronounced guilty of blasphemy which is punishable by death. The Jewish leaders were willing to go against their own laws. They wanted to get rid of Jesus that badly. List some things and ways that the world tempts us to the point that we sin to get them.

## What God Says To Us

Peter and Judas both betrayed Jesus, one with words and the other with money. Peter felt deep sorrow for what he had done and repented. Judas felt sorrow for what he had done and tried to correct the sin by returning the silver. When the council didn't care because they had what they wanted, Judas went out in despair and hung himself. Peter was forgiven because he believed Jesus' promise of forgiveness and salvation. Judas relied on himself to fix the situation and failed in life and in eternity.

Today's world is very tempting and we daily sin and need forgiveness. There are many false thoughts regarding sin. Name a few of these false thoughts and explain why they are false.

## Prayer

End with Hymn 151 vs. 1 and 7.

Christ the Life of all the living,  
Christ the Death of death, our foe,  
Who, Thyself for me once giving  
To the darkest depths of woe -  
Thro Thy suff-rings, death and merit  
I eternal life inherit:  
Thousand, thousand, thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Then, for all that wrought my pardon,  
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,  
For Thine anguish in the Garden,  
I will thank Thee evermore,  
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,  
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,  
For that last triumphant cry,  
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.