



“Peter’s Denial”

SuperTruth: Jesus knows my weaknesses.

SuperVerse: “Jesus understands every weakness of ours, because He was tempted in every way that we are. But He did not sin!” (Hebrews 4:15)

Introduction:

Hello, everyone! Today we will watch a new Superbook adventure called “Peter’s Denial.” Our video begins with Jesus, Peter, and the other disciples at the Last Supper. This was the last meal Jesus ate before He died on the cross. Listen closely to what Peter and Jesus say. Then we will check in with Chris, Joy and Gizmo to see what they are doing.

Play Video on the Church App, Website, or YouTube: <https://youtu.be/QOJmTqiUjoQ>

Play Video: Chris and Joy’s Dilemma (3:00 minutes)

- Pause video and ask the following question.

Follow up Questions

Joy was very hurt when Chris denied knowing her. Why did he pretend not to know her, when they are such good friends? He was afraid of what the basketball players would think.

1. Was Chris being strong or weak and afraid?
2. Has a friend ever denied knowing you or turned his/her back on you? How did it make you feel?

Let’s finish our video and see what happens! How about Joy—what did she think?

Play Remainder of Video: Bible Story and Resolution

Jesus willingly laid aside His supernatural abilities and lived on Earth as a human. He was tested and tempted in every way possible, yet He never gave in to the temptations and sinned! Because Jesus experienced every kind of temptation, He understands what we face in the world.

Bible Reading: Read Matthew 26:31–35

In these verses, Jesus referred to a prophecy in **Zechariah 13:7** about how the shepherd would be struck down and the sheep would be scattered. Yet Peter boldly declared that he would never deny Jesus, even if it meant his own death! Many people talk about Peter’s failure—however, the other disciples all made the same promise! They all loved Jesus, yet they failed when faced with a difficult decision in their human weakness.

How many times did Peter deny knowing Jesus? Jesus warned Peter that he would do that, yet Peter did not believe it was possible. Peter was very confident in his own strength and abilities.

Afterward, Peter was heartbroken at what he had done. He was devastated to realize he had turned his back on Jesus. Perhaps Peter thought his life had no more direction or purpose. He returned to the one thing he knew—fishing. That’s where Jesus came to Peter and called out to him.

When Peter realized it was Jesus on the beach, he was so excited that he swam to shore ahead of all the others. After Peter and the disciples ate the meal Jesus had prepared for them, Jesus asked Peter three questions to search his heart.

Three times Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him. The first two times, Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him using the Greek word *Agapao*, which means unconditional love—the highest kind of love that always continues, no matter what happens.

Before Jesus died, Peter had boasted about loving Him—yet he had failed and his heart was broken. Peter answered that he loved Jesus using the Greek word *Phileo*, which means brotherly love.

Jesus then asked Peter a third time, using the Greek word *Phileo* for brotherly love instead of the word *Agapao* for unconditional love. The Bible tells us that Peter was deeply hurt when Jesus asked him if he loved him for the third time. Peter answered that Jesus knew everything and that yes, he loved Jesus, using the word for brotherly love.

The first time, Jesus told Peter to continuously feed His lambs. These are young sheep, like all of you—young and growing! Jesus wanted Peter to feed young children and young believers with the Word of God to help them grow.

The second time, Jesus told Peter to take care of His sheep. This means to watch over and protect adults and mature believers.

The third time, Jesus told Peter to feed His sheep; to teach believers God’s Word and help them grow to be more like Jesus. Jesus forgave and restored Peter three times; one for each time he denied Jesus!

Yes! Jesus turned Peter’s failures and negative actions into positives; He forgave and restored Peter, and gave him new purpose in life. Through the power of the cross, Jesus forgives our failures and strengthens our weaknesses! Satan desired to sift Peter and cause him to lose his faith forever; however, God used the sifting for Peter’s good, to mature and refine him. So, if you ever feel as if God can’t forgive you or have a purpose for your life, remember that what He did for Peter, He will do for you!

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