

Community Group Discussion Questions

THE LAST WEEK – NO. 2 “The Denial” – John 18:15-18, 25-27

Theme: *There are some practical lessons that we can learn from Peter about dealing with moral failure!*

Imagine that your worst moral failure was the lead story on the evening news or went viral on YouTube. That’s a frightening thought, isn’t it? Maybe our initial reaction is to think that God would never do anything like that. But He did. On numerous occasions, God set in print the moral failures of His people for millions to read (Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Samson, Jonah, etc.) The biblical record is not pretty. But its realistic description reminds us that no follower of Jesus is above moral failure.

In the verses before us, John forces us to take a look at the darkest moment in Peter’s life. Peter was known as “*The Rock*,” the Gibraltar among the disciples. Yet, the rock was not without its cracks. Undoubtedly, the Bible records Peter’s fall in all four Gospels so that we may learn some valuable lessons about dealing with our own failures and acts of denial.

Gathering Together (Icebreaker)

As a young person, what was one of your most “rebellious” acts? What key lessons did you learn from the experience?

Growing Together (Truth/Equipping)

Read John 18:15-18, 25-27:

1. It was stated in the sermon that a person does not suddenly become deceitful, immoral, or addicted to some engrossing habit. There is usually a process that one follows. What were the 4 steps that led to Peter’s failure?
 - S _____ -c _____.
 - P _____ p _____.
 - Remaining in the place of d _____.
 - Rejection of the t _____.
2. Just before Jesus’ arrest, Peter boasted that he would always follow the Lord (see John 13:33, 36-38). How do such statements and attitudes set us up for a moral failure? See Proverbs 16:18; 1 Corinthians 10:12.

3. It has been said, “*When surrounded by wrongdoers, doing wrong comes easy.*” How may our friendships and social gatherings influence our moral choices and actions? If you’re a parent, how do you seek to guide your children to choose their friends wisely? See Psalm 1:1 and 1 Corinthians 15:33.
4. The God of the Bible is described as too holy to look upon sin *and* yet full of forgiveness.
 - How is it possible for a holy God, who must punish sin, to forgive us?
 - What does God require of us in order for Him to forgive us?
See 1 John 1:9; Romans 8:1.

Getting Real with One Another (Accessibility)

1. In your attitude and response toward others who commit moral failure, are you more likely to be:
 - Pharisaical in judgment—thrilled at exercising power to condemn?
 - Indifferent—broken laws and broken hearts don’t matter?
 - Intensely interested in both who a person is AND what he/she could be?
2. How do you picture Jesus when you think of your own brokenness and failures?
3. How has His forgiveness changed you?
4. How would intentionally “living in forgiveness” motivate you to want to obey the Lord more consistently?

Group Prayer Time (Supplication)

1. Ask God to cleanse your heart of sins of omission (failure to do the right thing) and commission (doing the wrong thing).
2. Praise Him for His promise to forgive us when we authentically confess our sin and turn away from it.
3. Ask God to reveal more to you about “living in forgiveness.”
4. Pray for Pastor Matt Brant and his family as they prepare to move to our area.