

the road to the cross

Week 4 - Denial

mark 14-16

1. When have your parents or a close friend done something embarrassing and you decided to pretend that you didn't know them?

So far in the series we've seen various responses that people have made to Jesus; that Jesus has been betrayed and arrested; and that Jesus has been found guilty by a trial of the Sanhedrin. This week we go back to a part of the story we skipped over, to look at how Peter responds to the situation...

Read Mark 14:27-31

2. Jesus declares in verse 27 that all of the disciples will fall away. How does Peter respond to this suggestion?
3. Why do you think that Peter is insisting so strongly that this would never happen?
4. What other important thing does Jesus say that seems to go unnoticed by his disciples?
5. In thinking about your own faith, how confident are you that you will always remain a Christian?

We now jump forward to catch up to where we were at last week, and we see Peter taking the focus of the story once again...

Read Mark 14:66-72

6. Look at the three times Peter denies knowing Jesus. Why do you think this happened?

7. Peter was one of the first people to recognise Jesus for who he truly is (see Mark 8:27-29). What can we learn from Peter therefore about difficulties in our own faith?

8. Look at your answer to question 5. What are some things in your life that do / may cause you to struggle to remain true to your faith?

9. What are some ways in which we can ensure that we don't deny Jesus in our own lives?

Pray as a group that we would be able to remain true to Jesus in our faith, even when things get tough. Pray to thank God that he is forgiving, and that even though we stuff up we are able to have a relationship with him.