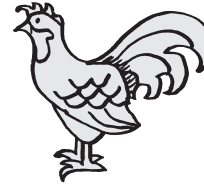


# BETRAYAL



Jesus predicted that Peter would deny him three times before the rooster crowed. Peter was devastated to hear this, but when Jesus was taken away, Peter fulfilled Jesus' prophecy and denied that he even knew Jesus, not once, but three times.

**Roosters** start crowing at the first light of dawn, and they do not stop until the sun goes down. When Peter heard the rooster crow, he was anguished to realize that he had fulfilled Jesus' grim prophecy of his denial.

## Luke 22:31–33, 54–62

Jesus spent years guiding, leading, and caring for his disciples, yet they betrayed and abandoned him. Peter was in Jesus' inner circle. When Jesus called together his closest disciples, Peter was always there. But Jesus knew Peter would betray him. And just as Jesus predicted, Peter denied his association with Jesus three times before the rooster crowed.

Check out these other Bible passages that connect with the theme of Betrayal!

- > **Mark 8:31–33** Why would Jesus call Peter Satan?
- > **Mark 14:43–50** How did all of Jesus' disciples betray him?
- > **Mark 16:8** Why did the women run away from the empty tomb?

## Talk about it!

Use these questions to connect with each other.

- > Peter had a tough choice to make the night Jesus was arrested. What's the toughest choice you've ever had to make?
- > Can you think of a time when you have been betrayed? What about a time when you have betrayed someone?
- > What might happen to a friendship that experiences betrayal?

## What are preteens thinking?

It won't be a stretch for preteens to relate to the loneliness and abandonment that Jesus must have felt. The challenge will be helping preteens to empathize with all sides of the story, not just Jesus, the betrayed.

## Try this!

Betrayal can be heartbreaking, but a sincere apology can be a wonderful step toward a reconciled relationship. As a family, discuss what makes a good apology. Imagine some betrayals (silly and serious) and practice apologizing to each other.

## Prayer

God, we are thankful that there is no place you have not gone—even the heartbreak of betrayal. Amen.