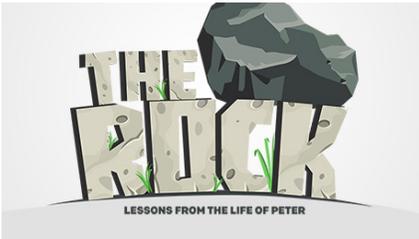


# Small Group Experience

## LESSON 5 - "Watch For The Signs"



### Whatchagaddaknow?:

"I Will Watch For The Signs!"



### Power Verse:

"Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation..."

– Mark 14:38

## Retelling The Bible Story

### SUPPLY LIST:

\* Bible Story Pictures Print Piece (*provided; print one set*)

### TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

*Before small group begins, print the Bible Story pictures and review the story so you are familiar with the main points. To review the Bible Story, hold up the pictures one at a time and ask the kids to explain the events of the story. Help fill in any gaps as needed and ensure the main points are being covered. Continue on this way until the story is complete.*

**Say-** Signs are universally used to communicate. Did you know that God uses signs? It's true! I'm not talking about a "slippery when wet" or "icy road ahead" sign; I'm talking about a spiritual sign. What does this mean? Let's talk about it together! A great place to begin is with another look at our Bible Story. I am going to hold up pictures from the story for us to discuss. Share your thoughts, and feel free to ask questions!

*-Show the Bible Story pictures and discuss the events of each one, filling in any gaps in the story line as needed-*

**Say-** Thank you! You did a great job! Jesus gave Peter warnings that trouble was headed his way, yet Peter chose to ignore the signs. I want to hear your thoughts on a few things from the story.

**Ask-** How do you think Peter felt when Jesus said, "Tonight before the rooster crows, you will have denied Me three times?"

**-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-**

**Ask-** Why did Peter fall asleep instead of praying?

**-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-**

**Ask-** Why did Peter deny Jesus?

**-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-**

**Game/Activity****SUPPLY LIST:**

- \* Word Search Print Piece (*provided; print one per kid*)
- \* Pencils, crayons, or markers

**TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:**

*Before small group begins, print the Word Search Print Pieces. Once activity time begins, give each kid a copy of the word search and something to write with. This is a fun lesson concept reinforcing activity.*

**Say-** The great thing about signs is that you don’t have to search for them! Signs are boldly presented and displayed. Unfortunately, that is not the case with your Sign Word Search. Do some searching and see if you can find the words hidden on your sign, circling the words as you find them.

**-Allow time for the kids to complete the word search-**

**Group Sharing****SUPPLY LIST:**

- \* Lesson Points Print Piece (*provided; print one per kid*)
- \* Bibles (*one per team*)
- \* Pencils, crayons, or markers

**TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:**

*Before small group begins, print the Lesson Points Print Pieces and gather all classroom supplies. Group sharing is focused on encouraging the kids to open up and discuss the lesson concepts and relate those concepts to their lives. Help facilitate and guide the discussion time.*

**Say-** By now, it’s no secret that we are discussing signs today. I want hear some of your favorite signs - funny, strange, or helpful. What signs stand out to you?

**-Allow time for the kids to respond-**

**Say-** The purpose of signs is to provide information. If you are crazy hungry, a cafeteria sign is a welcome sight. If you are hurt, an emergency room sign gives hope. If you are approaching a dangerous situation, warning signs can save your life. I want us to talk more about warning signs. Earlier, I mentioned that God uses warning signs when His children are approaching dangerous situations.

**Ask-** What warning signs did Peter ignore?

**-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-**

**Say-** You might wonder how Peter could ignore such direct and glaring warning signs. I mean, come on! Jesus looked directly at Peter and told him what was about to happen. Maybe you think there is **NO WAY** you would have a moment like that with Jesus and still make the wrong choice. In real life, we all have those moments- it wasn’t just Peter. God does speak directly to us through our guidebook for living.

*(Continued on next page)*

**Ask-** How does God communicate with us? What is our guidebook for living?

**-Allow kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-**

**Say-** The Bible is God’s direct message to us, and it is full of warning signs! No one knows us better than God does. He is able to see when things are “off” in our lives and we are heading for danger. To get a better look at three major warning signs, let’s take a look in our guidebook together. I am dividing you into three groups and assigning each group one sign. Look up the scripture associated with your sign. Read and discuss it together. Write your thoughts on the back of the paper.

**-Divide the kids into groups and assign each group one scripture; give each group a Bible and allow time for them to complete the assigned task-**

**Ask-** Which group had Proverbs 16:18? Please read the verse aloud and share your thoughts about the warning sign and verse with the group.

**-Allow time for the group to share their verse and thoughts; discuss their answers with the group-**

**Say-** Pride has a way of tricking us into believing the lie that we are fine and above making wrong decisions. The moment you begin to think, “I would never...” you’d better watch out! This means that pride is trying to take root in your heart and mind. God warns us against pride and its devastating effects.

**Ask-** Which group had James 1:22? Please read the verse aloud and share your thoughts about the warning sign and verse with the group.

**-Allow time for the group to share their verse and thoughts; discuss their answers with the group-**

**Say-** Disobedience is a battle of will. We are told to do something, and we don’t want obey. We deceive ourselves when we think we can disobey God and avoid trouble. God warns us that disobedience leads to destruction.

**Ask-** Which group had Proverbs 28:26? Please read the verse aloud and share your thoughts warning sign and verse with the group.

**-Allow time for the group to share their verse and thoughts; discuss their answers with the group-**

**Say-** Foolishness is making the decision that we know what is best. We sit in church and hear God’s wisdom taught, we might even read God’s Word, and yet we still decide to do things our way. This warning sign is clear - “You don’t know everything!” There is someone who does know everything - God. Don’t fall for foolish, know-it-all traps!

**Ask-** If you were teaching someone how to avoid these pitfalls and heed the warning signs, what would you tell them?

**-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-**

**Prayer Time**

**Say-** I am going to pray that God will open our hearts and minds to the warning signs He so graciously places in our lives and that we will have the strength of character to listen and obey!

**Pray**

**Closing**

**Say-** Peter was a bold follower of Jesus, full of passion and conviction. So how did he end up betraying Jesus? If you look at the story, there are clear warning signs Peter chose to ignore. Jesus didn't beat around the bush. He spoke directly and warned Peter that he would fail and deny Him three times. What might have changed if, in that moment, Peter admitted his pride and asked Jesus for help? We will never know. Peter chose pride. Jesus clearly asked Peter to accompany Him, stay alert, and pray. What might have changed in that moment if Peter had obeyed Jesus? We will never know. Peter chose disobedience. Jesus modeled grace under pressure and love for His enemies. Peter knew this, and yet he cut off the soldier's ear in a fit of rage and revenge. What might have changed in that moment if Peter had shown mercy and chosen peace? We will never know. Peter chose foolishness. You can avoid a lot of heartache and failure by paying attention to God's warning signs in your life. You can avoid moments of, "What might have happened? We will never know." The warning signs were there for Peter, and thankfully, they are still there for you and me. Watch for the warning signs in your life! Stay close to God, listen, and obey. Thank you for coming today. I will see you again soon!





2





I don't even know  
who Jesus is!

A H H I Z U C P G S Z G C W E  
 Y G S G E T H S S G A N E Q S W  
 T N B N M C N J S G A V E Q S R T  
 V Z E O D Q V B O L X S N E P P  
 R R E T R F I H T J D F B I U R R A B E  
 S M R A D U M Z Z I X L H O M A Y C D  
 U R Y H Z D P H E W M A C X  
 J T Y H Z D P H E W M A C X  
 G H T A D B W E R D I N N E R F  
 L R D S W O R D S S N C P T F  
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 V F W H Q F O I R U W C A Z L  
 C W P I V W Y A S L E E P G D Z C  
 Q J Y I B Z E D F L H L R B B D  
 F A S N C S F B H O C E Y A Z Z  
 T Q U V G R R E S B R C Z T G I U  
 A E C R O W I N G Y P V U E W  
 U E C R O W I N G Y P V U E W  
 T S C O F G A R O R W X D K X  
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 V I O P S E F F R R K S M O E S Z  
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- PETER
- JESUS
- BETRAY
- DINNER
- ROOSTER
- DENIED
- THREE
- GARDEN
- PRAY
- GETHSEMANE
- ASLEEP
- SOLDIERS
- ROMAN
- ANGRY
- SWORD
- EAR
- ARRESTE
- DISCIPLE
- QUESTIO
- ASHAME
- CROWIN
- IGNORED
- SIGNS

# WORD BANK

# I WILL WATCH FOR THE SIGNS!

**PRIDE** ...

**IT WILL NEVER  
HAPPEN TO ME.**  
(PROVERBS 16:18)

**DISOBEDIENCE** ...

**I DON'T WANT TO.**  
(JAMES 1:22)

**FOOLISHNESS** ...

**MY PLAN IS BETTER.**  
(PROVERBS 28:26)

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