

- I. **Ice breaker.** *Getting to know each other questions.* (10 minutes)
What will you be doing this year for Thanksgiving? How has the recent pandemic spike altered your plans for this year's holiday?
- II. **Read today's scriptures** out loud, slowly, either in unison or using a designated reader and move into scripture quiet reflection. (3 minutes)
⁶⁶ While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. ⁶⁷ When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him. "You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus," she said. ⁶⁸ But he denied it. "I don't know or understand what you're talking about," he said, and went out into the entryway. ⁶⁹ When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, "This fellow is one of them." ⁷⁰ Again he denied it. After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean." ⁷¹ He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know this man you're talking about." ⁷² Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times." And he broke down and wept. Mark 14:66-72

II. **Scripture quiet reflection:** (5-10 minutes)

This is a time to personally reflect on this week's scripture. Have a paper and pen available.

1. Read. Read through the passage silently.

2. Reflect. Notice any words or phrases that particularly draw your attention and stand out to you. How do these words/phrases speak directly to you and your present situation? Write your insights.

3. Respond. As God has spoken to you in the Scripture, respond back to God in prayer. What do you want to say to God? What else does God want to say to you?

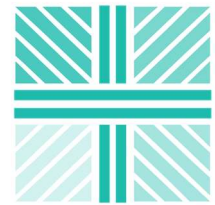
III. **Sermon and Scripture Application Discussion.** (20-30 minutes)

- A. As you reflectively engaged the Scriptures, what stood out to you from these passages?
- B. Read together Mark 14:32-42 and see how Peter prayed too little.
 - Prayer demonstrates WHO we are confident in. How does lack of prayer also demonstrate WHO we are confident in?
 - How do you connect a lack of prayer with an over reliance on yourself ...in your own life?
- C. Peter boasted too much. Read together Mark 14: 29-31 and note how Peter had too much confidence in himself.
 - When we pray too little we are more inclined to boast or draw too much attention to ourselves. Have there been times this last week that you have boasted or wanted to boast about yourself to another?
- D. When we don't spend time in prayer, we also give into temptation more easily. Discuss how you might see a connection between times when you don't engage God and increased vulnerability to temptation.
 - Look at the three challenges to Peter's knowledge of Christ and how he denied the knowledge each time. How did his denials grow incrementally with each subsequent response?

Senior Pastor: Kevin Flannery

Peter's Denial & Ours

Mark 14: 66-72



- E. Review Mark 14: 53-65 from last week and note that while Jesus faithfully confesses His identity as the Messiah and Son of God before the powerful and potentially lethal Sanhedrin, Peter cowardly denies before a simple servant girl that he even knows Jesus. Yet as Peter was failing Jesus.... Jesus was succeeding for him. It is true that as we are failing Jesus, He is standing in for us and has paid for our sins. -KF
- Is there an area where you feel like you didn't measure up or failed this week? How does knowing Jesus advocacy/love/forgiveness for you ...even when you fail... help your heart to heal?
- E. How do the words of Mark 16: 7 communicate grace and restoration to Peter? **But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'** Mark 16:7
- John's gospel in chapter 21 records what happened to Peter after the resurrection. Three times in this powerful dialogue Jesus asks Peter a variation of the simple question: "Do you love me?" Each time Peter responds in the affirmative, to which Jesus says, "Feed my sheep."
 - It could be that Jesus knew that Peter not only had to experience forgiveness, but also had to know that God could still use him. All of us fail. Are you turning to Jesus, confessing your sins, and allowing Him to restore you?
- F. Allow a time for silent confession before the Lord to reflect on this past week - where you have denied Christ and relied upon yourself? Pray together for one another to rely less on self and more on Christ.