

May 15 | Sunday
The God of Second Chances:
“Disciples Who Denied Jesus”



16 | Mon – Reality Check | Read [Matthew 26:31-35](#), [Luke 22:31-34](#)

It is easy sometimes to believe we are stronger than we really are. Peter refused to accept Jesus' forewarning and confidently asserted that "even if all fall away on account of you, I never will." Has there been a time when you said you would NEVER do something, only to find yourself later doing exactly that very thing? Could this actually be a blessing in disguise if we begin to understand how much we need God's help?

17 | Tue – Coward(s) | Read [Matthew 26:55-56](#), [Mark 14:48-52](#)

Because Peter was so outspoken and boastful, we forget that he was not the only coward in the garden. Both Matthew and Mark record that ALL the disciples ran away. Who wouldn't be terrified when facing a large group of armed men? Fear can make cowards of us all when we are unprepared. What could you do today to be ready for those times when you are tempted to "run away"?

18 | Wed – Threats | Read [Luke 22:54-55](#), [John 18:15-18](#)

Although he initially ran away, Peter did come back and followed from a distance to see where Jesus was being taken. Yet when faced with the decision to identify with Jesus, Peter repeatedly denied any connection with this man. We don't face physical threats but it can cost us socially or economically to be known as a Christian. Does the need for acceptance sometimes minimize your willingness to be honest about what you believe?

19 | Thu – Guilty | Read [Mark 14:66-72](#)

The crowing rooster reminded Peter of Jesus' warning and how little Peter really understood himself. Although he broke down with bitter tears, he did not choose to take the path that Judas did. There is a difference between destructive guilt and godly sorrow. Why do you think Peter responded differently to his failure than Judas?

20 | Fri – Words x 3 = 4giveness | Read [Mark 16:1-8](#), [John 21:15-19](#)

Three times Peter denied that he even knew Jesus. Here Jesus isn't asking "Do you *know* me?" but "Do you *love* me?" He is giving Peter a chance to 'take back' his denials. Peter's final answer was "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you" contains the truth Jesus wanted him - and us - to understand. We cannot always trust ourselves but we can always trust Jesus. He knows the truth, even if sometimes we don't.

21 | Sat – Use Second Chances Wisely | Read [Acts 2:14, 22-36](#)

Weeks earlier, Peter hid in the shadows, afraid to admit that he even knew Jesus. Now he proclaims boldly that Jesus is the Messiah. Only a person who has experienced great forgiveness can live with such abandon, no matter the cost. Peter and the other disciples were given a second chance and by God's power working in them, they changed the world! What will happen, for the glory of God, when you seize your second chance?

May 22 | Sun – Celebration Sunday!



Hastings United Methodist Church