

Facing Failure

As you gather together to hear and apply God's Word, start by sharing how you were influenced by the previous study since your group last met. Use the following questions for review.

D Debrief & Interpret

- How did you apply the previous Scripture study?
- What did you learn about God as you applied the Word? What did you learn about yourself?

H Hear the Word

No one wants to fail. We want to be confident, competent, and true to our word. Peter wanted to be loyal to Jesus but, when put into different circumstances, he folded under pressure. See how Jesus responds to Peter's failure in this story.

Read Matthew 26:33-35 / John 18:15, 17, 25-27 / John 21:15-17

³³ Peter answered [Jesus], "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away." ³⁴ Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." ³⁵ Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!"

[Later that night, after Jesus had been arrested and brought to the high priest's house...]

¹⁵ Simon Peter followed Jesus [to the high priest's house] ... ¹⁷ The servant girl at the door said to Peter, "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." ²⁵ Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself [by the fire.] So [others by the fire] said to him, "You also are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." ²⁶ One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" ²⁷ Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

[After Jesus' resurrection, he appeared to Peter, and they ate breakfast together.]

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."



Discuss:

- Peter was one of Jesus' closest disciples and friends. How do you think Peter felt after he denied Jesus three times?
- If you were Peter, and Jesus approached you after the resurrection, how might you expect Jesus to react after you denied you knew him three times?
- What do you think Peter needed from Jesus when he faced him again after the resurrection? How did Jesus meet Peter's needs in that conversation?
- What are some times in your life when you have failed God but have experienced his restoration?

R Respond Actively

As you end your study together, choose one or both of the options below to apply the Scripture to your life this week.

- *Internal application:* Think about your time in nursing school so far. In what ways do you think you have “failed” God? As a group, take a minute or two in silence to personally confess those things to God. Then, take one more minute of silence to listen to how God wants to personally respond to you. End the time with the leader praying the truth that God restores us to himself when we confess our failings before him.
- *External application:* The reality is that many of your peers are also failing God and are in desperate need of being restored to him. You can be God's gracious presence to them by inviting them to the next NCF meeting, to church, or another similar gathering. Take a minute to jot down the names of two people you can invite—they can either be Christians or non-Christians. Then, commit to inviting those two people this week!