

Denial
PREVIEW

By Rachel Benjamin

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PURPOSE

Peter's denial of the Messiah may, at times, seem like a distant, old snare. Yet, the temptation to discredit our Messiah is all too prevalent today. Without a rooster crowing, do we recognize denial?

SUMMARY

A youth group leader is teaching on the passage of Peter's denial of Christ. While condemning Peter's denial, Maddie and Chris fail to recognize their actions as similar acts of disowning their faith.

CHARACTERS

Leader

Maddie

Chris

Caleb

Valerie

Various other students

WHERE

Youth Group Meeting

RUNNING TIME

5 to 7 minutes

HOW TO

The Youth Group Leader should be positioned Up Stage (US) with the students sitting, facing him. Maddie and Chris should be Down Stage (DS) and should turn towards the audience when they have their whispered conversations.

All of Maddie and Chris' conversations should be in a stage whisper.

NEEDED PROPS

Bibles

Cell Phone

Paper (crumbled into a ball)

Paper Airplane

LEADER

Please open your Bibles to John 13 verse 36 and follow along with me.

He reads from a Bible.

Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered, "Where I am going, you can't follow now, but you will follow afterwards." Peter said to him, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." Jesus answered him, "Will you lay down your life for me? Most certainly I tell you, the rooster won't crow until you have denied me three times.

Leader closes his Bible.

We're almost out of time, but before we go, I want to read a few passages and leave you with this thought: Do you think Peter *wanted* to deny Christ? I don't. I think, at times, denial is simply the result of habitual sin and misconstrued justification of our actions.

Chris throws a crumbled piece of paper at Maddie to get her attention. Chris and Maddie's conversation takes place in a stage whisper DS, while the youth group Bible study continues.

CHRIS

You got practice tomorrow?

MADDIE

Yeah, coach is calling extra practices now that we're going to state's.

CHRIS

So, you won't be at Wednesday night church?

MADDIE

Oh, I'll be there, just might be a little late.

CHRIS

You coming on the youth group retreat next weekend?

MADDIE

Absolutely! Softball can't keep me from that. I've been looking forward to it all year.

CHRIS

What chapter is he in?

MADDIE

John 13. What a lame passage.

CHRIS

Seriously! I mean, I know Peter eventually becomes this great guy and everything, but I just don't get how he denies Christ.

MADDIE

I know.

CHRIS

I just don't think I would have done that.

MADDIE

Me either.

Both girls turn US and give the Leader their attention.

LEADER

Caleb, would you read the next part out of John 18?

CALEB

Sure.

Caleb stands, faces the youth group and reads from a Bible.

Then the maid who kept the door said to Peter, "Are you also one of this man's disciples?" He said, "I am not."

This time Maddie throws a paper airplane at Chris. Both girls turn DS.

MADDIE

So, did Mike call you last night?

CHRIS

Yup.

MADDIE

And?

CHRIS

He asked me to the prom!!

MADDIE

I knew he would!

CHRIS

And I think I found the perfect dress.

MADDIE

Already?

CHRIS

Well, online.

MADDIE

I wish I was going to the prom.

CHRIS

Mike's friend Kevin is still looking for a date.

MADDIE

Really?

CHRIS

Yeah. I can mention your name.

MADDIE

Really?

CHRIS

But don't mention youth group. Just tell them that we're friends because we sit together in chemistry.

MADDIE

Why?

CHRIS

Mike just isn't into the whole Christian thing.
(Justifying her actions)
But I'm praying for him.

MADDIE

So, why can't he know that you go to youth group?

CHRIS

I just don't want him to be uncomfortable.
(Pause)

It's not like I won't eventually tell him I'm a Christian. I just don't want him to think I'm weird or anything. I just want him to get to know me first.

...TO READ THE REST OF THE SCRIPT
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