



Small Group MEMBER Sermon Guide
May 27 & 28, 2017, Pastor Tom Shrader
Denial | John 13:36-38

APPLICATION EXERCISE/PUTTING YOUR FAITH INTO ACTION

Before we begin this week's lesson:

Last week's Nudge report: Anything you did with last week's commitment around God's command to love as He loved, and how that impacted your life last week. *(Hint: If you didn't do anything specific or intentional, it is common at this stage of learning more how to apply what you hear. Don't give up. Keep listening to His Spirit.)*

Pray for today's session as well as for commitment to be "doers" of the Word.

GETTING TO KNOW ME: Denial

- How does our world, our country, live in denial of who God is?
- How do you sometimes live in denial of who God is?

Group members take turns reading the following Scriptures.

INTO THE BIBLE (All Scriptures below from NASB)

Denial leads to Peter's fall

Over-promising and under-delivering:

*John 13:36-38 Simon Peter *said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered, "Where I go, you cannot follow Me now; but you will follow later."³⁷ Peter *said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You right now? I will lay down my life for You."³⁸ Jesus *answered, "Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times."*

- How do you sometimes over-promise and under-deliver on your faith commitments?

The wrong thing for the right reasons

John 18:10 Simon Peter then, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave's name was Malchus. ¹¹ So Jesus said to Peter, "Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?"

- Can our actions or attitudes sometimes do more harm than good?

Convenient lies

*John 18:17 Then the slave-girl who kept the door *said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He *said, "I am not."*

John 18:25-27²⁵ Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself. So they asked him, "You aren't one of his disciples too, are you?" He denied it, saying, "I am not."

²⁶ One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, "Didn't I see you with him in the garden?" ²⁷ Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow.

"The LOOK" (Luke's version of Jn. 18:25-27)

Luke 22:60-62 Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." ⁶² And he went outside and wept bitterly.

- How does the Lord's "look" at our lives change what we do next?

Repentance: (Peter's answer to "The LOOK")

Acts 2:14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

- What is it that you say to others about your faith in Christ?

Acts 2:22-24 "Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³ This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, ^[d] put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

- What should we do with what Christ has done for us?

Acts 2:37-38 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸ Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:40,41 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

- Discuss how following Christ has great rewards (Rewards not of the world but from the Lord)

Consequences of following Christ

Acts 4:1-4 The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. ² They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. ³ They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. ⁴ But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.

- Peter had said he would "lay down his life for Jesus." Are we sometimes more worried about the negative consequences of being known as a follower of Christ than for the eternal rewards for doing so?

If not Jesus – then what or who?

Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

Acts 4:13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

APPLICATION (So Now What?)

- Be careful what you say!
Pause and think first
Avoid working in your own power

- Failure is inevitable, but not fatal!
Let Peter's journey of first falling then succeeding be your encouragement
- Not only does God forgive you He can use you!
God uses you as you work in what #1 & 2 above call you to
- Do people see you have been with Jesus?
How will you now live so that people ask, "What is it about you that's so different?"

PRAYER

Pray that you will continue to grow in putting what you hear into who you really are and what you then do.

Other prayer needs.