

EASTER WITH MAC & CHEEZ

Week 3

PARENT BIBLE STUDY

Read: John 13:36-38, Luke 22:54-62

Fear. Self-preservation. Denial. Shame.

This was undoubtedly one of the darkest moments in Peter's life. Not hours before that rooster crowed, he'd been eating with Jesus; he'd sworn his life to Jesus and cut off someone's ear to defend Jesus. He was extreme in his declaration of loyalty, but he didn't understand what Jesus was doing, so he was sloppy in his obedience. Hours after he made those haphazard promises to Jesus, he denied even knowing him three times. It is not dramatic to assume that the crow of the rooster and meeting eyes with Jesus sent chills up Peter's spine and tears down his face. Luke tells us that Peter "went out quickly and wept bitterly," Luke 22:62. He ran and hid and cried. What a horrible moment.

It's dark and painful, and yet, is there any human in history who is unable to relate to this story? We know that sickening feeling of conviction and the paralyzing emotion of shame. Peter had never been more afraid or felt more unworthy in his entire life. All that Peter could see was the finality of Jesus' death and that he had no hope of resolution.

And yet we must remember that this story of Peter is one chapter within the bigger story of Easter. And the story of Easter ends in total redemption and freedom from shame. *For all of us.* Easter declares that "there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus," Romans 8:1. And Hebrews 12:2 says that for the joy set before Jesus, he endured the cross and despised its shame. This means that on the cross, Jesus told our shame that it is less than nothing compared to the joy he has for us. Our worst moments, the parts of our lives we want to hide from, and the things we've done that we feel the most shame around are absolutely powerless because of Jesus.

In this life, we will still have moments when we hear the rooster crow. We will still experience shame. We will still sin. But when we feel that weight and when we sit in that darkness, we can remember this truth: Jesus did not stay dead. He came back to life to bring the deadest parts of us back to life, too.

What Peter didn't fully know, we can be sure of: it might be dark now, but Easter is coming.

Put yourself in Peter's shoes. How would you respond to meeting eyes with Jesus in your worst moment of shame?

How does this story help you treasure the grace and accept the forgiveness of God?