Preschool–Grade 6

Peter Denies Jesus

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: I can say, "I love Jesus!" And when I do wrong, I can say, "I'm sorry."
Bible passage: Luke 22:54–62. Read Luke 22:31–34 and 22:54–62 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "I have prayed for thee" *Luke 22:32 (KJV).* These are Jesus' words to Peter, and older classes learn the whole verse. The old word **thee** means you.
You need: a Bible, a few paper flames (or red, orange and yellow paper) for a pretend fire, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Luke 22. Put the paper flames in a pile in the middle of your story circle.

1. Opening game: Rooster Wake-Up (5 minutes)

Kids lie down and pretend to sleep. When you crow like a rooster, "Cock-a-doodle-doo!", they jump up and shout, "I love Jesus!" Play it a few times, and sometimes wait a long time before you crow. Say: "Today a rooster crows in our true Bible story. Listen for it!"

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Luke 22. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Sit around the pretend fire. Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Peter loved Jesus. Peter said, "Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death" (Luke 22:33) *(Thumbs up.)*
Some men took Jesus away (22:54). *(Sad face.)*
Peter followed, far behind (22:54). *(Tiptoe in place.)*
People made a fire. Peter sat by the fire (22:55). *(Hold your hands out to warm them.)*
A woman said Peter was with Jesus (22:56). *(Point.)*
Peter said he did not know Him (22:57). *(Shake your head. Hold up one finger.)*
Someone else said it. Peter said, "No!" (22:58) *(Two fingers.)*
Another man said it. Peter said, "No!" (22:59–60) *(Three fingers.)*
Then the rooster crowed (22:60)! **All together: "Cock-a-doodle-doo!"**
Jesus turned and looked at Peter (22:61). *(Turn your head.)*
Peter went out and cried. He was very sorry (22:62). *(Rub your eyes.)*
But Jesus loved Peter. After Jesus rose, He came to Peter (Luke 24:34). *(Hug yourself.)*
Say it with me: "Jesus loves me, even when I do wrong!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Where did Peter sit? *(By the fire, Luke 22:55)*
2. What animal made a sound? *(A rooster, the cock crew, 22:60)*
3. Was Peter sorry? *(Yes. He went out and wept, 22:62)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus said to Peter, 'I have prayed for thee.' That means, 'I prayed for you!'" Teach the motions: fold your hands on "I have prayed," then point to a friend on "for thee." Say the verse with the motions three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Luke 22:32" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus loved Peter, and Jesus loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: By the Fire (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a fire, and Peter sitting beside it. While they color, ask: "What did the rooster say? What did Peter do when he was sorry?" Kids who finish early can play Rooster Wake-Up again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, Jesus, for loving me.
Help me say, 'I love Jesus!' In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the part where men take Jesus short and calm, and spend more time on the fire, the rooster and Jesus' love for Peter. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

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