EASTGATE

Small Group Leaders Guide

"Falling Down and Lifted Up"

Peter denies Jesus
54 Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. 55 And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. 56 Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, "This man also was with him." 57 But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." 58 And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not." 59 And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean." 60 But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. 61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." 62 And he went out and wept bitterly. (ESV)

54 Arresting Jesus, they marched him off and took him into the house of the Chief Priest. Peter followed, but at a safe distance. 55 In the middle of the courtyard some people had started a fire and were sitting around it, trying to keep warm. 56 One of the serving maids sitting at the fire noticed him, then took a second look and said, "This man was with him!" 57 He denied it, "Woman, I don't even know him." 58 A short time later, someone else noticed him and said, "You're one of them." But Peter denied it: "Man, I am not." 59 About an hour later, someone else spoke up, really adamant: "He's got to have been with him! He's got 'Galilean' written all over him." 60 Peter said, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about." At that very moment, the last word hardly off his lips, a rooster crowed. 61 Just then, the Master turned and looked at Peter. Peter remembered what the Master had said to him: "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." 62 He went out and cried and cried and cried. (The Message)

Discussion Guide

The following questions are meant to spark a conversation about the passage. Use any of them that seem fitting for your group or pull questions from the wonderwhat entry for this passage.

- Have you ever said anything that you wished you could take back immediately? What is one thing you've said that you wish you'd have said differently?

- How do we compare Pete in this story with the Pete of v33? What do you think changed between v 33 and these verses? What emotions do you think Pete was experiencing when he saw Jesus heal one of his arresting officers, and then dragged off to trial? What do you think he was expecting Messiah, and *God* to do?

- When the rooster crowed, how do you think Peter felt? When Jesus looked at him, what feeling do you think his look conveyed? How do you think Pete felt after that look?

- How do you feel when God doesn't act like you expect him? How do you express these feelings to God...and how do you think God feels about what you express? How can we have a more healthy reaction to God's ways being different from our own?