

PRAYER

Forgive me, dear Jesus, for when I speak or act as though You are not my God. You ARE my God, and I love You. Amen.



Emmaus Bible Lessons

Series 1: The First Three Commandments

Study #08 of 13

Second Commandment *Peter Denies Christ*

Memory

1. “Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God” (Exodus 20:7).
2. “If we’re disloyal, He [Jesus] remains loyal because He cannot be untrue to Himself” (2 Timothy 2:13).

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Emmaus Bible Lessons

Series 1: The First Three Commandments

Study #08 of 13: Peter Denies Christ (Matthew 26)

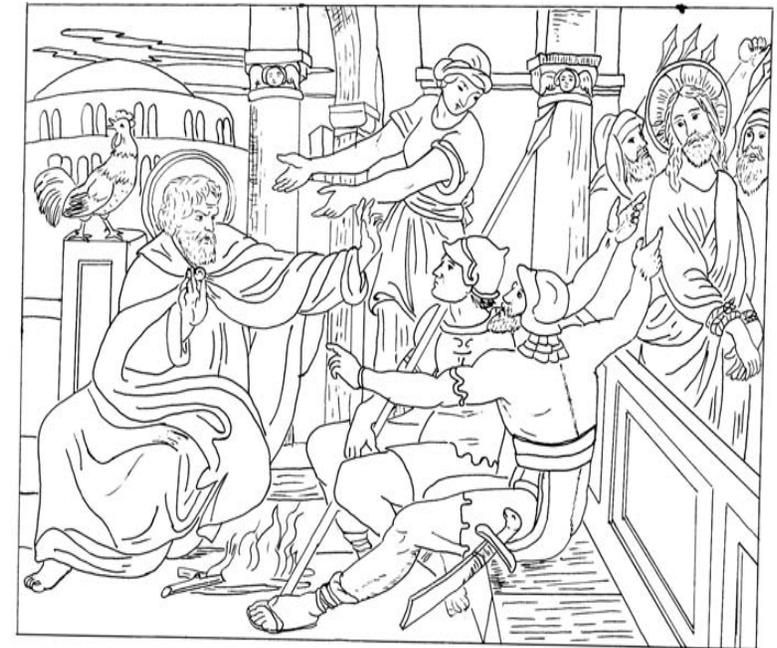
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God says to you in the second commandment,
“Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God”
(Exodus 20:7).

THIS MEANS you must never speak or act as
though Jesus is not your God.

Bible Reading: Matthew 26:19-25, 30-35, 47, 55-58, 69-75

Questions and Answers For Understanding This Bible Story

1. What warnings did Jesus give to Peter in this story? How did Peter react to these warnings?

First, Jesus said that all the disciples would turn against Him. Then, after Peter promised he would never turn away from Jesus, Jesus told Peter, “Tonight before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” Peter refused to believe this. Again Peter promised Jesus, “Even if I have to die with You, I’ll never deny You!”

2. Despite Peter’s good intentions, what did Peter do when Jesus was arrested? Why do you suppose Peter did this?

Even though Peter promised to stay with Jesus, “ALL the disciples left Him and ran away,” including Peter. Later that evening, Peter did exactly what Jesus had said: Peter denied Jesus! Peter even cursed and swore when he said, “I don’t know the Man!”

Peter felt very afraid that the people might harm him if they knew that Peter loved Jesus. This is why Peter broke the Second Commandment, speaking and acting as though Jesus was not Peter’s God. In his great fear, Peter also misused the name of God by swearing (that is, making a promise in God’s name) that he did not know Jesus.

3. When in your life have you felt tempted to speak or act as though you did not know Jesus? What made you want to do this?

Maybe you can think of a time when you were with a friend or a family member who does not love Jesus. Rather than having this person be unkind to you because you are a Christian, you might sometimes feel tempted to speak or to act as though you do not know Jesus. (People do this by speaking rudely, treating others badly, and by pretending that God’s Name does not matter.) You might even feel

afraid of what might happen to you if too many people find out that you are a Christian.

4. What did Peter remember when the rooster crowed?

Peter remembered Jesus’ Words, and these Words from his God showed Peter that he had sinned terribly. Because of his sins, Peter felt very sorrowful when he heard the rooster crow. Peter “went outside and cried bitterly.” As bad as it was to feel afraid of the crowd, Peter felt even worse when he realized that he had spoken and acted as though he did not know Jesus. Peter knew he had denied his Lord, breaking the Second Commandment. Peter felt sorrowful, guilty, and ashamed.

5. Jesus says to you, “Whoever will deny Me before others, him will I deny before My Father in heaven” (Matthew 10:33). What strong warning does Jesus speak with these Words?

With these Words, Jesus wants you to know that it is a serious sin to pretend you do not know Him! If people keep on pretending that they do not know Jesus, and do not stop denying that they know Him, Jesus will do the same thing and deny knowing them!

5. God says to you in His Bible, “If we’re disloyal, He [Jesus] remains loyal because He cannot be untrue to Himself” (2 Timothy 2:13). In what way do these words help you when you have spoken or acted as though you do not know Jesus?

Jesus forgives you all your sins! God promises you in His Bible, “He hasn’t dealt with us as we deserve for our sins, or paid us back for our wrongs. As far as the rising of the sun is from its setting, so far has He put our sins away from us” (Psalm 103:10-12).

Your Lord Jesus wants you to know that He loves you so greatly that He will never fail you and pretend He does not know you. Jesus will remain loyal to you, even when fear causes you to sin by speaking or acting as though He is not your God. When you fall into such sins, Jesus quickly forgives you. He cannot fail you because “He cannot be untrue to Himself” (2 Timothy 2:13). That is to say, Jesus will always forgive your sins because forgiveness is part of who He is.