



## IS HE GOING TO STAND STRONG?

### Slide 1

- I will never leave you! **Slide 2** I will never give up on you! **Slide 3** You can rely on me.

**Slide 4** I will always be there!

Have you ever heard that? Maybe you've said it? We can think we are strong but it's not an easy job. **Slide 5** So, it's a disappointment. We feel bad. Well, when it comes to small things, it's not very serious but we can find ourselves into difficult situations. **Slide 6** This is the case with Peter in this story which you will find **Slide 7** at the end of the Gospels:

Listen carefully and then you will be able to answer these questions:

**Slide 8** - Why did Peter deny Jesus?

**Slide 9** - What did he learn?

### **Slide 10** WILL PETER HOLD ON?

It was night. **Slide 11** A whole troop of soldiers, guards and persons armed with sticks and swords, have just arrested Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. The religious leaders sent them here. **Slide 12** They have tied his hands and brutally took him away. **Slide 13** Jesus was all alone. **Slide 14** Where are his friends, Matthew, Andrew, Philippe, and the other disciples? They had all promised never to give him up, just a few hours ago are some hours: **Slide 15** "I'm ready to die for you!" had declared Peter! **Slide 16** They disappeared into the garden. They were so scared that they fled.

**Slide 17** But Peter pulled himself together and said to one of them:

- Come on! Let us follow from afar, we will see where they are taking the Lord and what will happen.

**Slide 18** They arrived in front of the palace of Caiaphas, the high priest. This disciple knew Caiaphas; **Slide 19** he came inside but Peter stayed outside.

**Slide 20** - Can my friend come in? He asked to the maid standing by the door.

**Slide 21** - Let him come in! Said the woman.

**Slide 22** Peter entered into the yard. It was so cold so they lit up a fire. The servants have gathered there to warm up. Peter sat down with them. These men were telling who Jesus got arrested. They were making fun of him. They were rude. Peter did not say a word, he

was uncomfortable. He heard the loud voices and the screams.

**Slide 23** - But why are they yelling like that at Jesus? **Slide 24** He didn't do anything wrong! They are insulting him!

**Slide 25** In the light of the flames, a servant was carefully looking at Peter.

**Slide 26** - But you are one of his disciples too! She said.

**Slide 27** - Not at all! Answered Peter. I don't know what you mean. **Slide 28** I don't not know him!

He was very scared. He felt in danger. **Slide 29** He walked towards the exit door. The maid saw him. She looked at everyone around her and said:

**Slide 30** - Him also is with this Jesus of Nazareth!

**Slide 31** - What are you saying, said Peter, it is not true! I told you **Slide 32** I do not know this man! I have never seen him!

**Slide 33** The soldiers continued to insulting and abusing Jesus. They were making fun of him. **Slide 34** They blindfolded and hit him. They told were saying to Jesus:

**Slide 35** - Come on, tell us who hit you! Come on, guess!

**Slide 36** Peter was upset. He knew the brutality of these men and the wickedness of the religious leaders. It is so sad to see Jesus captured into their hands this way. Time seemed very long, but He stood there.

**Slide 37** An hour later, men arrived. They surrounded him. They told him:

**Slide 38** - There is no doubt, you are one of his people! **Slide 39** You are with Him! When you speak, we recognize your accent, you are from the same region as Him, you are from Galilee!

Pierre was scared. A High priest's servant insisted.

**Slide 40** - Yes! Of course you are with Him. Don't say you are not, I can recognize you. I saw you in the garden tonight. **Slide 41** You cut off my cousin's ear.

**Slide 42** - I'm telling you I'm not! Shouted Peter angrily. I don't know this man.

**Slide 43** I swear I never saw him!

At that moment, **Slide 44** a shout rang out in the morning light. **Slide 45** The song of a rooster! For Peter, everything was upside down. Jesus' words echoed in his head: "Peter, before the rooster crows today **Slide 46** you will have denied me three times." He is devastated. **Slide 47** Jesus looked towards Peter. There was no reproach in this look but sadness and compassion. Peter was upset, Jesus' look broke his heart. He could no longer

stay there. **Slide 48** He fled out of the courtyard and plunged into the quiet streets of the city. **Slide 49** He cried. He bitterly cried. He was ashamed of himself. He could not help thinking about what had just happened. The young man, so self-confident who felt so strong. He had just denied his Lord whom he loved so much. He was deeply disappointed with himself: **Slide 50** "I am unworthy of the Lord. He repeated to himself. "I never thought I would have come to this! **Slide 51** Will Jesus ever want to forgive me for denying him? " Peter had none response for that. He had lived hours and days with deep regrets **Slide 52** but his comfort was the kind look from Jesus.

### **Slide 53** 1, 2 3, 4 AND YOU AND ME!

I suggest we think about our questions together: **Slide 54** "Why did Peter deny Jesus?" I think **Slide 55** he was very scared, terribly scared of those men's brutality. **Slide 56** What about you? Aren't you afraid of the reactions of the others sometimes? When you tell them that Jesus is your Friend?

Another question: **Slide 57** "What did Peter learn?" He found out what was deep down in his heart, **Slide 58** his pride but also **Slide 59** his weakness. Jesus warned **Slide 60** him but he didn't **Slide 61** believe him because he felt so strong. What a pity, he didn't listen, **Slide 62** he didn't pray! He would have had **Slide 63** much more strength to resist or he just wouldn't have put himself in a so difficult situation. Now I'm going to tell you what I think great about this story even if it's very sad. **Slide 64** It was Jesus' look full of love for his disciple. What do you think of that? It cheers me up a lot to know that **Slide 65** Jesus continues to love us even when we are not always on top.

### **Slide 66** 4, 3, 2, 1 AND WE PARENTS!

This story is challenging us. What do we think we are capable of for the Lord? How far do we think we could go? It's easy to say, to think, even dreaming, that we will go anywhere out of love for the Lord, but the reality can overtake us.

Let us remain humble and confident to remain faithful to Him in our daily life. We can keep these words of the Lord in our hearts: **Slide 67** "I prayed for you that your faith would not fail".

**Slide 68**