



Peter and the Early Church



SHARE

your highs and lows

Break into pairs.
Listen carefully and record your partner's thoughts in the space provided. Then return to small group and share your friend's highs and lows.

MY HIGH THIS WEEK

MY LOW THIS WEEK

MY FRIEND'S HIGH THIS WEEK

MY FRIEND'S LOW THIS WEEK



READ

and highlight the theme verse in your Bible

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said... "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children..."

Acts 2:37-39a



TALK

about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows

Choose from the options below to enrich your Talk Time. Invite group members to take turns leading one or more of the following:

IMAGES

1. Choose either the cover photo, cartoon or painting by Dr. He Qi (back page).
2. Where are you in this work of art?
3. How might the art and the theme verse relate to each other?
4. How might the art relate to your highs and lows?

ROLE PLAY

Assign roles and take turns acting out the following:

1. A Christian friend brags a lot about his accomplishments. You have a sneaking suspicion he really feels inferior inside, and brags in order to convince himself that he is actually okay. When you talk to him about it, he blows up and yells at you. "You aren't my real friend!" he says. "I thought you liked me!" Respond.
2. A friend has been skipping church. You invite her to go and she says, "I can't go to communion. I've done some really bad things." Respond.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. Why do some people brag out loud about their accomplishments, while others don't seem to have a need to brag at all?
2. Why are some people broken and destroyed by their failures, while others seem to grow stronger because of them?
3. Do you know anyone who has been or is currently in jail? Do they know you are thinking about them? Do they know God still loves them? What would it take for you to somehow tell them? Would you dare? What would stop you?

QUOTATIONS

Choose a quotation (right column) and share your thoughts and questions about it.

These Christians love each other even before they are acquainted!

Celsius, Roman anti-Christian philosopher, 3rd Century A.D.

You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life.

Winston Churchill

The world breaks everyone and afterward many are stronger in the broken places.

Ernest Hemingway

Early in life I had learned that if you want something, you had better make some noise.

Malcolm X

The two most important words in the Bible? "And Peter!"

Dana Hanson



Write a definition...

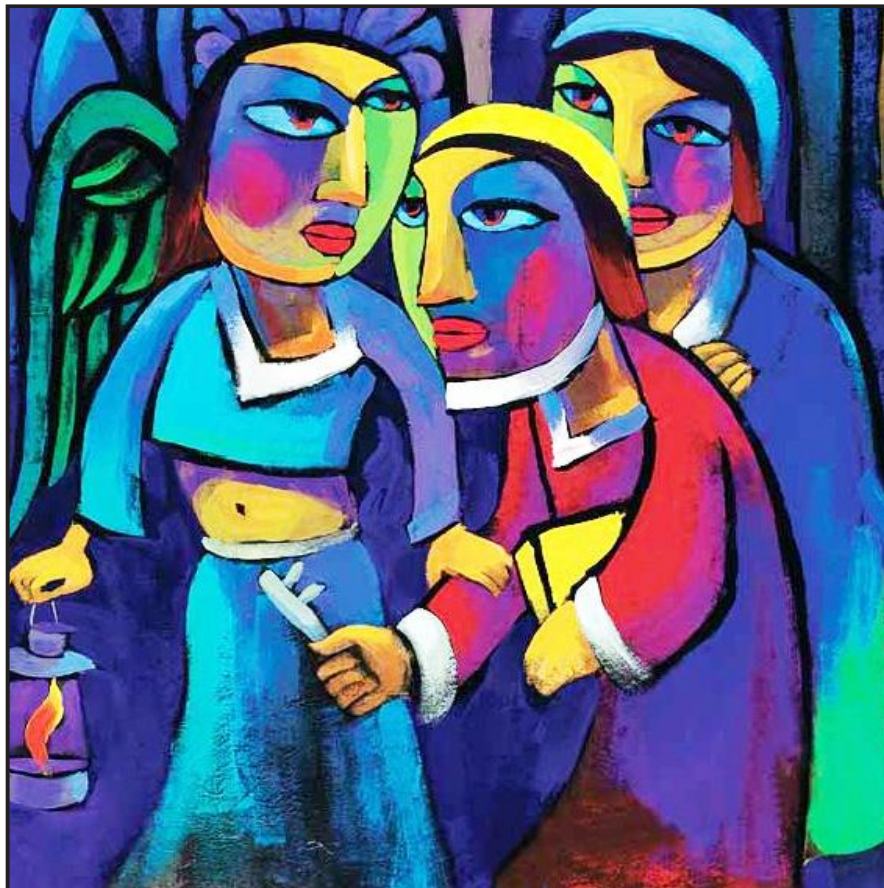
CHURCH

JERUSALEM

JOHN

PETER

POPE



Peter Escaping Prison by Dr. He Qi (www.heqigallery.com)



PRAY

for one another's
highs and lows

Gather in a circle. Praise and thank God for your highs. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you in your lows. Pray for your friend's highs and lows and for your world. Close in Jesus' name.

Prayers for Highs

Prayers for Lows



BLESS

one another

Trace the sign of the cross on one another's foreheads or palms.

REMEMBER 1 THING

Peter messed up big time. He promised to stick by Jesus, then ran away at the first sign of trouble. He promised to never deny Jesus, only to deny him three times in the next few hours. Even though he failed, Jesus still loved him.



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