



## Exploring Easter – Peter’s Story

### Peter denies Jesus – Luke 22:54-65

Peter kept to the shadows as he followed the group that had arrested Jesus down the hill into the city. He tried to be quiet, but every now and then his knees buckled with terror and he let out a stifled cry as he grazed himself on a wall or stubbed his toes. He needn’t have worried, Jesus’ captives weren’t looking back, they seemed to be determined to get where they were going as soon as they could.

Soon, they arrived at the gates of Caiaphas’s house. He was the High Priest in Jerusalem and so his house and grounds were large and impressive. Peter quickly slid through the gates with the others and keeping his head down gathered around the fire they were building in the courtyard. He could see the Chief Priests and teachers of the law gathering at the far end of the courtyard where Jesus was being guarded, and was almost knocked over by others who bustled in late to this impromptu night-time meeting of the Jewish council.

Peter drew closer to the fire. He couldn’t stop shivering, although the night was not that cold – probably just a bit shocked by the whole thing he thought to himself. He put his hands out to warm them near the flames and looked up to see a servant girl staring at him intently. ‘You were with him’ she said jerking her head to the corner where Jesus was being guarded. Peter shook his head ‘No.’ he said ‘I don’t know him’. He sat down trying to look relaxed and calm his breathing. People came and went and after a while the girl went off to get on with her chores but just as Peter was starting to doze, someone else pointed at him ‘You are one of his friends, aren’t you?’. ‘No, I am not’ Peter insisted again, pulling his hood closer around his face. About an hour later as water to drink was being passed round another person stared at him and said to those around ‘Yeah, he was definitely with Jesus, see, he is a Galilean’. Frightened Peter rose to his feet quickly. ‘I don’t know what you are talking about’ he shouted at the man and as the words left his mouth the courtyard was filled with the sound of a cockerell crowing. The sun was poking over the top of the wall and Peter could see Jesus looking straight at him. Instantly Peter was back

on the path to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus had said that he would deny him three times before the cockerell crowed and he had declared that he would never let Jesus down. 'Never' the word fell from Peter's mouth as stared back at his best friend. Now the sun was up Peter could hear the woken guards starting to mock Jesus, but he couldn't stay. He had done the thing that he said he would never do. He had let Jesus down, he had denied that he knew him. His chest was so tight with the pain of it and he wiped the tears from his face as stumbled through the gate. 'Never!' he shouted at the empty streets as he ran and ran until panting he fell to the ground sobbing.