

# focus

A 21 DAY BIBLE READING PLAN  
PREPARING HEARTS FOR EASTER

DAY 16:

## Jesus Arrested & Peter's Denials

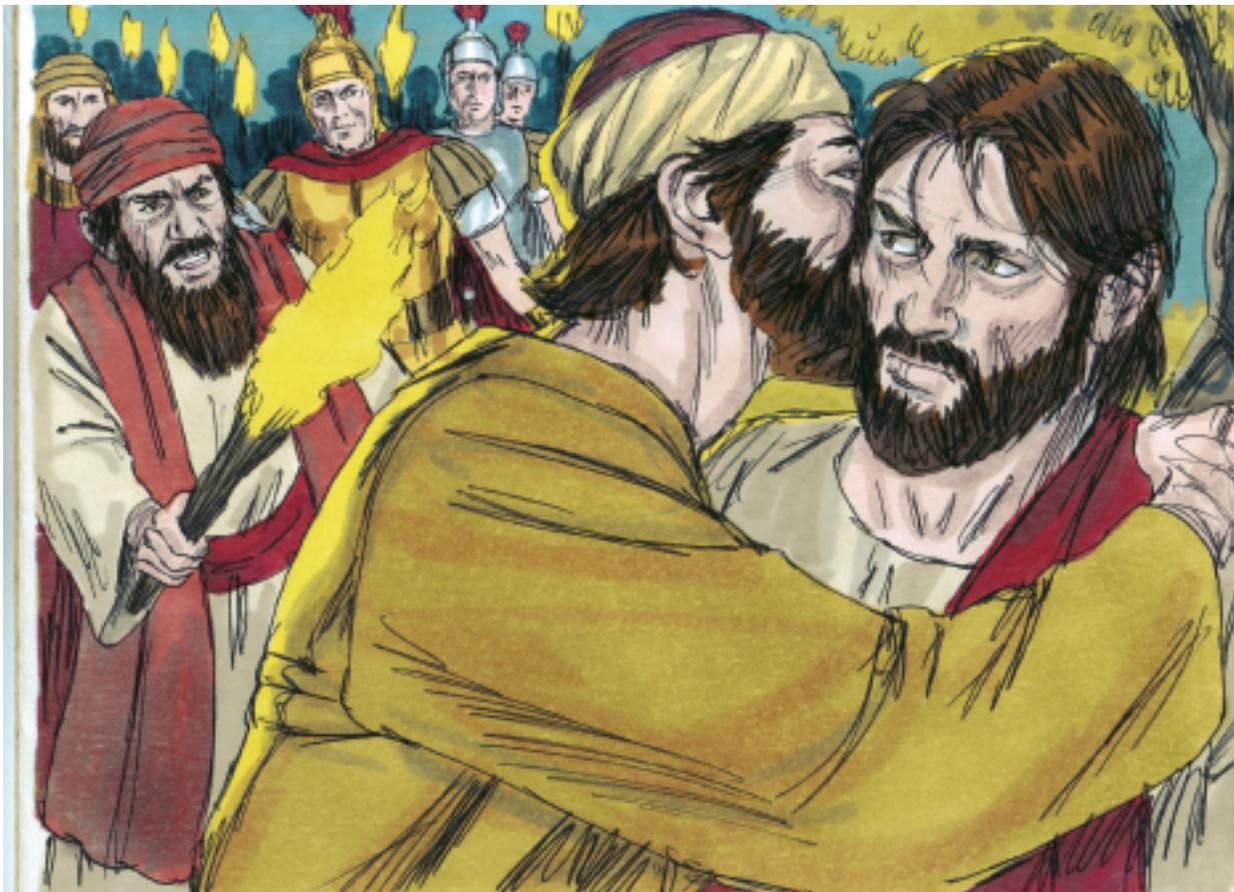
John 18:1-27



After Jesus and his disciples finished their last supper together, they went to one of their favorite places – the Garden of Gethsemane.

One of Jesus's disciples, Judas, did not go with them. Judas left the supper early because he had made an evil plan to betray Jesus. Judas agreed to help the Jewish leaders arrest Jesus. In exchange, the leaders would give thirty pieces of silver.

Judas knew that Jesus and his disciples were in the garden. So Judas led a group of soldiers, officials, chief priests, and Pharisees to the Garden of Gethsemane so that they could arrest Jesus.



When Jesus saw them coming, he met them and said, “Who do you want?”

“Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied.

“I am he,” Jesus said. When Jesus answered them, the big group stumbled backward and fell to the ground.

Again, Jesus asked them, “Who is it you want?”

“Jesus of Nazareth,” they said.

Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. If you only want me, then let my disciples go.”





Then Peter, who had a sword, took it out and swung it at the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear.

But Jesus said, "Peter, put your sword away! It is God's plan that this would happen."

Then the soldiers arrested Jesus and took him away. Peter and another disciple followed Jesus to see where they were taking him.

When the mob took Jesus to high priest's house, the other disciple was able to follow Jesus into the courtyard, because he knew the high priest. But Peter had to wait outside.

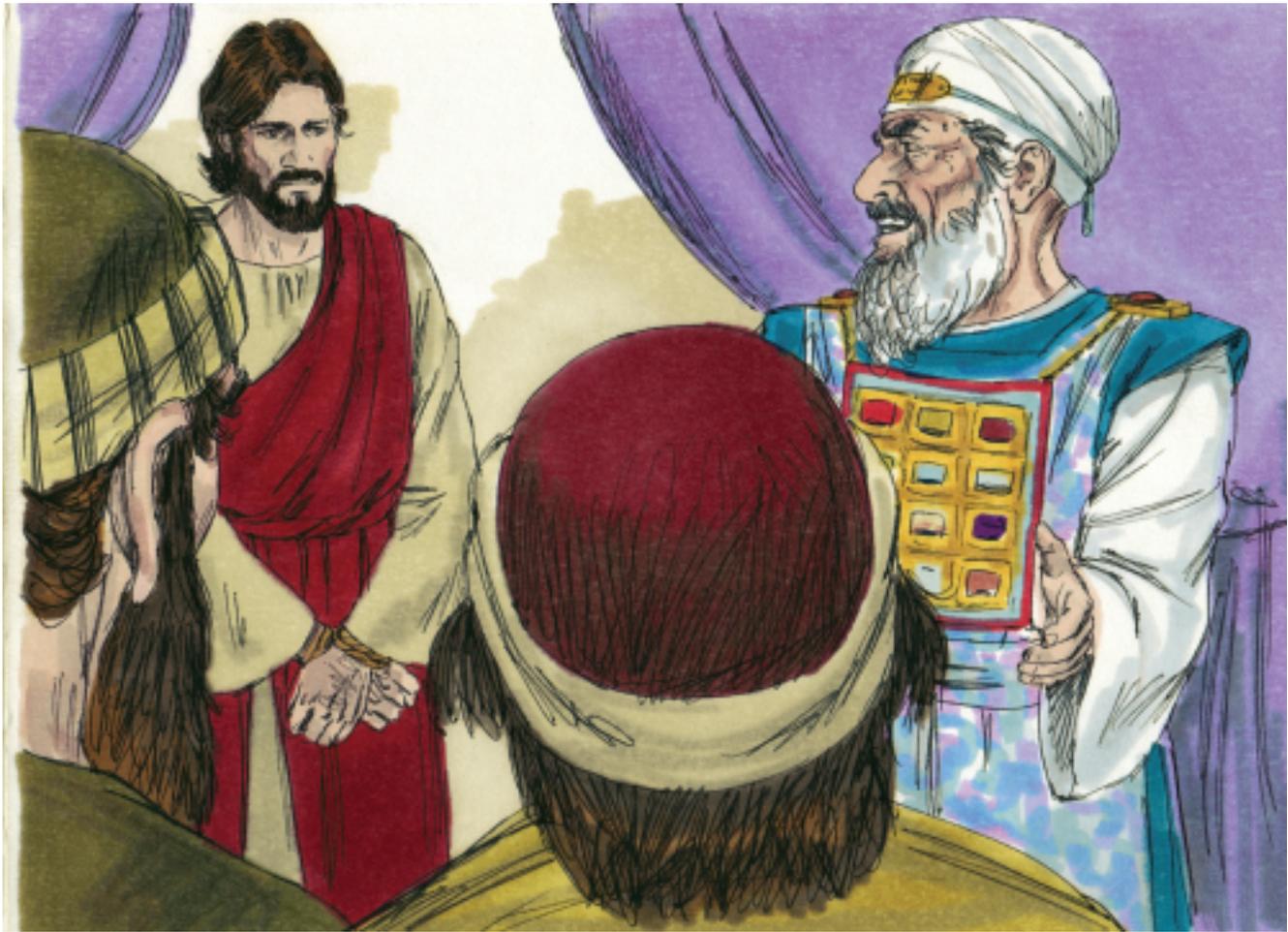
Finally the other disciple came back, spoke to the servant girl on duty there and brought Peter in.

“You aren't one of Jesus's disciples too, are you?” she asked Peter.

He replied, “I am not.”

Then he went to stand around a fire that they had made to keep warm.





Meanwhile, inside the house, the high priest was asking Jesus questions about his disciples and his teaching.

“Why are you asking me these questions?” Jesus replied. “I have been teaching in public for you to hear for a long time now. I never said anything secret. If you have questions, ask the people who heard me speak. They know what I said.”

When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face. “Is this the way you answer the high priest?” he demanded.

“If I said something wrong,” Jesus replied, “tell me what is wrong. But if I said the truth, why did you slap me?” Then they decided to send him to another high priest.





Outside the house, Peter was still standing around the fire. Another person around the fire said, “You aren’t one of his disciples too, are you?”

He denied it, saying, “I am not.”

One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, "But didn't I see you with him in the garden?"

Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow.

*How do you think Peter felt when he heard that rooster crow?*

