

Peter Denies Jesus

**Theme** No matter what we do, Jesus will still love us.

**Games**

**Peter Says** – Like ‘Simon Says’, but use the name ‘Peter’. At the end, say that Peter said many things that he would do, but did not always do them.

**Blindfold Obstacle course** - Get the children into a straight line and set out an obstacle course. Blindfold one child as they make their way through the course. Make sure the child is being guided by either another child or leader. The child has to trust the guide to get them across the course safely.

**Batter the Platter** – Put the children into pairs and give them each a rolled up newspaper ‘bat’ and a bean bag or silver foil ‘platter’. They have to place the bean bag/platter on the palm of one hand and protect it with the rolled up newspaper ‘bat’ in the other. The first child to knock the bean bag/platter off the other’s palm wins the game.

**Introduction**

Ask the children if they have ever told a friend that they would do something, then done the opposite. How do they think their friend felt? Today’s story tells us how Peter said he would do something, but later went back on what he said.

**Story**

Tell the story of Peter’s denial from John 13 v 36 - 38 and John 18 v 15 – 27; see resources for the sketch version of the story.

**Application**

Ask the children if they have ever felt that they have been betrayed by someone they know. How did it make them feel? Did they feel upset that a friend had betrayed them? Jesus felt this way about Peter, but even though Peter denied Jesus, Jesus still loved him and forgave him for what he had done, therefore as Christians we should do the same.

**Memory Verse**

*‘The Lord is merciful and loving, slow to become angry and full of constant love’* Psalm 103 v 8. Cut up the heart along the lines and hide them around the room, get the children to put the heart together and then read it. Take pieces of the heart away so they can remember it. See resources for the heart.

**Prayer**

Get the children to sit in a circle. Tell them not to put anything too personal on the prayer letter because others will be reading it, then get them to write down a prayer on a square of paper, e.g. *Thank you Jesus for loving us even though we do bad things. Amen.* Then get them to pass the letter to the person on their left and then that person will pray the prayer.

**Song**

Oh, It’s Great, Great, Brill, Brill, (to have a friend like Jesus) - Doug Horley  
Whoopah Wahey! Track 2

**Resources**

Sketch, Funsheet, memory verse heart

### **Week 3 Story**

*Jesus has just told his disciples the new commandment which is 'Love one another, as I have loved you. If you love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples.' And then Jesus predicts Peter's Denial.*

**Peter:** "Where are you going?"

**Jesus:** "You can't follow me where I am going!"

**Peter:** "Why can't I follow you? I am ready to die for you!"

**Jesus:** "Are you really ready to die for me? I am telling you, before the rooster crows, you will say three times that you do not know me!"

**Peter:** 'I will never say that'

*Peter was convinced that he would never do that, and all the disciples said the same thing.*

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*Peter was sitting by a fire warming himself when a servant woman came up to him.*

**Woman 1:** "Weren't you with Jesus of Nazareth?"

**Peter:** "I don't know what you are talking about!"

*Another woman came up to Peter.*

**Woman 2:** "I know you! I saw you with Jesus!"

**Peter:** "I am telling you, I do not know the man!"

*And then some men approached Peter in the courtyard.*

**Man 1:** "Of course you are one of his disciples! We can tell by the way you speak!"

*Peter denied Jesus for the third time.*

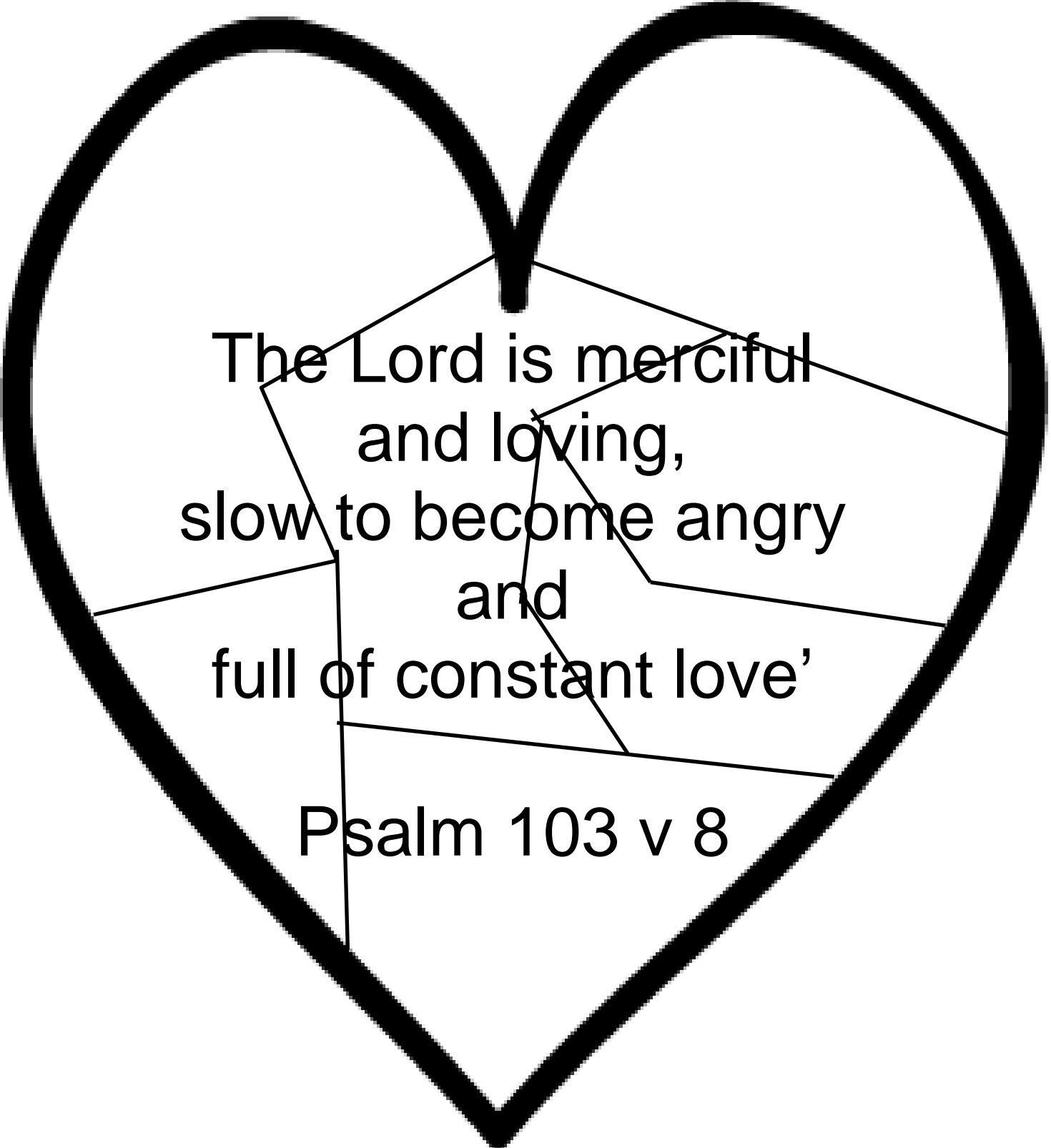
**Peter:** "I swear I do not know him!"

*Then a rooster crowed. And Peter then remembered what Jesus had told him.*

**Jesus:** Before the rooster crows, you will say three times that you don't know me."

*Peter went out and wept as he had denied Jesus, just as Jesus said he would.*

Week 3 Memory Verse



The Lord is merciful  
and loving,  
slow to become angry  
and  
full of constant love'

Psalm 103 v 8