

LESSON 12
REJECTING THE SON OF GOD
JOHN 18:1—19:42



1 What public figures have issued denials recently?

2 As a child, when did you deny the truth, lying to protect yourself?



Read John 18:1—19:42 and the following notes:

☐ 18:10, 11 ☐ 18:11 ☐ 18:13 ☐ 18:22–27 ☐ 18:31ff ☐ 18:36, 37
☐ 19:10 ☐ 19:18 ☐ 19:38–42

3 In chapters 18 and 19, what people or groups of people rejected Jesus?

4 To what three different people did Peter deny knowing Jesus? Why did Peter deny Jesus?

5 In what ways do people reject Jesus today?



6 How do we deny Jesus today?

7 Who would want to condemn Jesus today?

Everyone around Jesus, including his closest friends, turned their back on him. Judas betrayed him. Peter denied him. The Jewish leaders condemned him. Pilate accommodated him. And the crowd rejected him. Jesus—the Son of God, the worker of miracles, the proclaimer of truth, the man of compassion—was clearly rejected by all. Jesus had to face the cross utterly alone. Jesus subjected himself to unmerciful punishment to pay the penalty we deserve for our sin. He did not accuse, fight back, or fight for his life. He knew that his purpose was to die for us, in our place. Those who ignore him today reject both his life and his death. Receive his sacrifice and forgiveness. Reject him no more.

8 What kinds of pressure make it difficult for you to identify with Jesus?



9 Why do Christians hesitate to identify themselves with Jesus?

10 How might Christians become more bold, develop more courage, and be more consistent in what they profess?

11 How can Christians support and encourage a brother or sister who has faced rejection because of his or her faith?



12 What are you going to do this week to build your confidence in being a consistent witness for Christ?

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A What evidence for Jesus' deity does John appeal to in these verses?

B Why did Judas betray Jesus? What misconceptions about Jesus do people have today? How can we tell them the truth about Christ?

C What kinds of punishment did Jesus endure?

D What were Jesus' responses to Pilate's questions? Why did he answer that way?

E Why did Pilate ask, "What is truth?" How would you answer him? Why did he worry about being Caesar's friend? How did this affect Pilate's actions?

F How is Jesus the King? Where are his subjects and kingdom?

G Who crucified Jesus? Why did Jesus die on the cross? With which person(s) in the story can you identify most (John, Peter, Judas, the soldiers, Pilate, Mary, the crowd, Nicodemus, Joseph, Barabbas, or others)?

H How do we know that Jesus really died on the cross? What difference does that make to your faith?

I In the story, whose lives were changed most by Jesus' death? How has your life been changed by Christ?