

In The Storm Series
“I” of the Storm
Community Group

³¹ *On the way, Jesus told them, “Tonight all of you will desert me. For the Scriptures say,*

*‘God will strike the Shepherd,
and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’*

³² *But after I have been raised from the dead, I will go ahead of you to Galilee and meet you there.”*

³³ *Peter declared, “Even if everyone else deserts you, I will never desert you.”*

³⁴ *Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, Peter - this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me.”*

³⁵ *“No!” Peter insisted. “Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!” And all the other disciples vowed the same.*

Matthew 26:31-35 (NLT)

Discussion questions:

- 1. Read over the story of Jesus and Peter in Matthew 26. If you had been one of Jesus’ disciples, do you think you would have acted the same or different - falling asleep instead of praying, denying Jesus before others?**
- 2. If you feel comfortable, share some storms you have encountered that were of your own making.**

Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years. His mother was Hephzibah. ² He did what was evil in the Lord’s sight, following the detestable practices of the pagan nations that the Lord had driven from the land ahead of the Israelites. ³ He rebuilt the pagan shrines his father, Hezekiah, had destroyed. He constructed altars for Baal and set up an Asherah pole, just as King Ahab of Israel had done. He also bowed before all the powers of the heavens and worshiped them.

⁴ He built pagan altars in the Temple of the Lord, the place where the Lord had said, “My name will remain in Jerusalem forever.” ⁵ He built these altars for all the powers of the heavens in both courtyards of the Lord’s Temple. ⁶ Manasseh also sacrificed his own son in the fire. He practiced sorcery and divination, and he consulted with mediums and psychics. He did much that was evil in the Lord’s sight, arousing his anger.

⁷ Manasseh even made a carved image of Asherah and set it up in the Temple, the very place where the Lord had told David and his son Solomon: “My name will be honored forever in this Temple and in Jerusalem—the city I have chosen from among all the tribes of Israel. ⁸ If the Israelites will be careful to obey

my commands—all the laws my servant Moses gave them—I will not send them into exile from this land that I gave their ancestors.”⁹ But the people refused to listen, and Manasseh led them to do even more evil than the pagan nations that the Lord had destroyed when the people of Israel entered the land.

2 Kings 21:1-9 (NLT)

¹⁰ The Lord spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they ignored all his warnings. ¹¹ So the Lord sent the commanders of the Assyrian armies, and they took Manasseh prisoner. They put a ring through his nose, bound him in bronze chains, and led him away to Babylon. ¹² But while in deep distress, Manasseh sought the Lord his God and sincerely humbled himself before the God of his ancestors. ¹³ And when he prayed, the Lord listened to him and was moved by his request. So the Lord brought Manasseh back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh finally realized that the Lord alone is God!

2 Chronicles 33:10-13 (NLT)

- 3. Recount the story of Manasseh in 2 Kings 21 and w Chronicles 33. List the individual sins mentioned. What is your reaction to his forgiveness? Would you have rejoice if Hitler had repented and been forgiven?**
- 4. If I told you that I had done a long list of horrible sins and feel that I am beyond forgiveness, how would you counsel me? What would you tell me to do to get a fresh start with God?**
- 5. Share how this lesson encourages you.**