

**STORY 3: FILLED**

**S**imon Peter was a follower of Jesus in the first century. After Jesus was arrested, he was taken in for interrogation, and Peter followed close behind.

As Peter tried to enter the house where Jesus was being questioned, the doorkeeper asked, "Aren't you one of that man's followers?" Peter replied, "No, I'm not!"

Just a few minutes later, as Peter was standing outside warming himself at a fire, someone asked him, "Aren't you one of Jesus' followers?" Again Peter denied it and said, "No, I'm not."

Another man said, "Yeah, didn't I see you at the garden where he was taken?" Again, Peter denied it.

Just a few short weeks later, after Jesus' death and resurrection, the promised Holy Spirit came down on the believers in Jerusalem. At one point, Peter was in a public place, and he stood up and spoke in a loud and clear voice.

He said, "Fellow Jews, and all of you who are here visiting Jerusalem, listen carefully. Listen to what I have to say about Jesus of Nazareth."

He went on speak boldly about Jesus and his death and resurrection. He told the crowd that Jesus is the Messiah and that he and the other followers had all seen Jesus after the resurrection.

Peter's words pierced the hearts of many people in the crowd, and they said to him and the other believers, "Brothers, what should we do?"

Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you and to your children, and for everyone our Lord God will choose, no matter where they live."

Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation!"

And on that day, about 3,000 people believed in God for the first time.

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• **review:** re-tell the story

• **dialogue:** discuss the story

- What do you like or not like about this story?
- What changes do we see in Peter from the first part of the story to the second part?  
What led to those changes?
- What can we learn about God from this story?

• **application:** live the story

- Why don't we always seek to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit?
- If we were to walk in the power of Holy Spirit, what would our lives look like?
- What is one action you can take to apply this story to your life?

• **notes:**