

Family Devotional: The Power of Influence

- **Concepts covered:** Being influenced by others can be helpful and constructive or can lead to making bad decisions.
- **Link to article:**
<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/teen/Pages/Whats-Going-On-in-the-Teenage-Brain.aspx>
- **Icebreaker Activity or Question:** Put a puzzle together (or another activity that requires multiple steps or instructions) two times.
 - **First time:** With distractions (loud music, other people talking, pressure - "do it faster")
 - *How did it feel trying to do this with distractions and pressure?*
 - *How would you do this differently?*
 - **Second time:** Everyone encourages participant, gives them hints, etc.
 - *What did you learn from this activity?*
- **Scripture:** Matthew 26:69-75
 - **Context:** At this point, Jesus has been arrested and taken by the high officials. Peter, Jesus' best friend has been following behind.
- **Questions**
 - **What is Peter doing?**
 - *He is sitting, looking from the outside to see what happens to Jesus*
 - **Who comes up to Peter and what do they say?**
 - *A servant girl. Tells him he was with Jesus*
 - **What is Peter's response?**
 - *He denies it! Says he does not know Jesus*
 - **Why is it odd that a servant girl would put pressure on Peter?**
 - **Did Peter have to answer the servant girl?**
 - **Why do you think Peter allowed himself to be influenced by this girl?**
 - **What was the consequence of Peter being influenced by this girl?**
 - *He denied his best friend! He says he doesn't even know Jesus, his friend that he spent the last three years with*
 - **Do you think Peter would have done something differently if he could? If so, what would he do?**
- **Tell**
 - Like Peter, we too can be easily influenced by people we don't even intend to allow to influence us. Influence isn't always bad, and we need people to help us make right decisions. With encouragement and help from others, along with thinking of the consequences of our actions, we can make decisions that honor God and help us do the right thing.