



The Struggle Is Real

Week 4 – Failure to Freedom

Discussion Guide

Failure. The memory that makes your face flush. That thing you just can't believe you did. The mistake you would give anything to reverse. Take a deep breath. Put it to rest. Get up. Start fresh. God has a plan to use every failure for your good and His glory! Take a look at what God says about our sin, our failures, and most importantly, His ability to forgive. Let's get our thoughts and theology aligned with God,...and move from failure to freedom.

Jump Start

1. Share a time when you were completely sure of something, only to discover you were wrong?
2. **Read Jonah 2:7.** When have you prayed from a place of failure? What is the difference between prayers that are prayed from a place of failure versus a place of peace?
3. *You can't have a second chance until you bury the first chance.* **Read 1 John 1:8-9.** How do you get a fresh start or clean slate?
4. *Your failure is not wasted.* **Read Romans 8:28 and Psalm 119:71.** How can our "afflictions" draw us closer to God? In what ways have you see God "work all things together" for your good, even when it seemed impossible?
5. Final Thought: Failure is not the end of your story. It's not how God sees you; it does not affect His love for you. Even in the most extreme failure, God's love does not change. **Read Romans 8:38-39 out loud in your group.** Soak on God's promise that no outside force or created thing can separate us from His love. Acknowledge that even inward sin cannot cause Him to stop loving us.

Deeper

Luke 22 (ESV)

31 “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, 32 but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” 33 Peter said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.” 34 Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.”

1. What does verse 31 imply? Does this challenge your faith in any way?

2. In Verse 32, Jesus speaks to Simon Peter about the “after” of the failure ahead of him. Why should this encourage you?

John 21:15-17 (ESV)

15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” 16 He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” 17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.

1 Peter 5 (ESV)

5 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

3. First, we read the restoration of Peter, which took place right after Jesus’ resurrection. And then we have Peter’s own words to the church. Discuss what Peter learned, the value of the trial, the eternal worth of his failure.