

Failure Is Not Final

Week of April 17, 2016

These discussion questions can be used the week following the message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.



Message Recap: Read Luke 22:31-32

Guest Speaker:
Pastor Michael Crawford

We have all had failures. Big ones and small ones. In fact, over the course of your life, you will probably have more failures than successes. Instead of letting failure cause you to live a life of fear, shame, and guilt, rely on God. God is not vindictive or unforgiving (like Darth Vader). God is not waiting to smash you. Instead, Jesus was smashed for you. When God looks at you, he doesn't see a failure. He sees the righteousness of Jesus. God will use all parts of your life for his good. Failure is not final; it's what makes you fit to be saved by Jesus.

Pray

Your compassions will never fail and your mercy is new every morning so I release my failures to you. You have taken them to the cross and they will burden me no more. Instead, I stand in God's sovereignty over my life.

Share Your Experience This Week
#SevernRun

Getting Started

- Have you ever tried to re-create something you saw on Pinterest? How did it go for you—was it a success, or a “Pinterest Fail”?
- How did you meet Jesus?

Listening Deeply

1. What is failure?
2. Why does failure hit us so hard?
3. Have you had a the kind of failure that made you feel fear, shame, or guilt, or made you question your faith?
4. Thinking about the Star Wars clip, what personal or human attributes do you assign to God?
5. Read Lamentations 3:22-23. Share other Scriptures you know that describe God's character. How does the Bible's descriptions of God differ from the view that God wants to punish us?
6. God is sovereign and uses our failure for good: Do you agree or disagree? Do you have examples?
7. What does this mean to you: Because you are a failure, it makes you fit to be saved.

Living Wide in Jesus

Living is not easy and we will not be successful in every endeavor. But that doesn't mean we should give up. The enemy will use the emotions of fear, shame, or guilt to get you to stop trying (to quit living for God, to stop sinning). But God is sovereign over all things. Failure is not absolute. It does not define you. In fact, failure can lead you to your richest experiences with God as you feel his compassion, mercy, and grace. So as you are walking with Jesus, remember you might stumble. You might trip. You might fail at something you set out to do. But Jesus will pick you back up.

Use the space on the back of the page to let go of a failure that is holding you back from your purpose or identity in Jesus.