

“Finding Hope in Failure”

October 7-9, 2016 | Gina Nicola, LMFT | Anchored Series

INTRODUCTION

It is always important to have hope. This is especially true when we are facing failure in our lives. At those times we may feel defeated, discouraged, and ultimately hopeless. But we serve a God of hope. Our faith is not based on the circumstances we find ourselves in, but in the Almighty God who loves us and promises us a hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11). In this study we look at how we can find hope, even in times of failure.

Ice Breaker (Optional):

In one sentence, how would you define failure?

Study Questions (45 MIN)

Failure is part of life.

Q1. Read Ecclesiastes 7:20; 1 John 1:9; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Psalm 73:25-26; Ephesians 1:3-4

Solomon makes it clear in Ecclesiastes 7:20 that we all will fail at some point. Of course there are “little failures” that we face everyday, but there are some failures that loom large in our lives. In what area of your life do you fear failure? It is important to recognize that God is involved in every aspect of our lives. How is God involved in this area of your life? How might you increase His involvement?

The remedy to failure differs depending on its cause. If the failure is due to sin, what hope does 1 John 1:9 offer? If the failure is due to your weakness, or a circumstance beyond your control, what hope does God offer in 2 Corinthians 12:9 and Psalm 73:25-26? When we fail, it does not change God’s view of who we are, because He is omniscient and has always known the victories and failures of your life. According to Ephesians 1:4 how does God view you?

Failure provides the opportunity to learn and grow.

Q2. Read Proverbs 3:5-6; James 1:2-4

Most of the great successes of mankind were preceded by many failures. Can you think of an example? We must be willing to risk and fail if we are going to learn and grow. How does Proverbs 3:5-6 apply in times of failure? Failures can come amidst trying times. What good things can we hope to come from such times according to James 1:2-4? Have you

personally experienced God turning a failure in your life into something good?

Failure pushes us toward a higher goal.

Q3. Read Proverbs 28:13; Hebrews 12:1-2; Philippians 3:13-14

The pain of failure has the potential to draw your attention away from God, and instead focus it on the past. We may be holding on to feelings of shame or guilt that resulted from our failures. What does Proverbs 28:13 tell us will be the result of holding on to, or hiding our failures, and what happens when we confess them? What did Paul choose to focus on in Hebrews 12:1-2? He describes a process of laying aside what encumbers us and running with endurance. If past failures are preventing you from moving towards a higher, God-given goal, find someone in the group who will pray with you for God’s freedom and direction.

Wrap-Up

All of us will fail during our lifetime. But God is our hope in times of failure, no matter the cause. We need not fear failure because He offers us grace and strength and forgiveness when we need it. If we put our trust in God, rather than ourselves, we can embrace our failures as opportunities to grow in faith and wisdom. And when failure threatens to draw our focus away from God, we can choose instead to let go of the past, and look to Jesus for a higher God-given goal to move towards.

Memory Verse

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2 Corinthians 12:9 ESV

Prayer (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members’ needs: _____

Challenge: Take time this week to reflect on a past failure and ask God what you should learn from it and how you can grow through it.

Q1

Ecclesiastes 7:20 ESV - 20 Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.

1 John 1:9 ESV - 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2 Corinthians 12:9 ESV - 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Psalms 73:25-26 ESV - 25 Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. 26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Ephesians 1:3-4 ESV - 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him...

Q2

Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV - 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

James 1:2-4 ESV - 2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Q3

Proverbs 28:13 NASB - 13 He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.

Hebrews 12:1-2 NASB - 1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross,

despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Philippians 3:13-14 NIV - 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Prayers Con't: _____

