

# “Beyond Failure”

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## INTRODUCTION

In all of our lives there will be times when we fail to come up to God’s standards; times when we sin. Those failures affect our relationship with God. But in His love and grace, God wants to move us beyond our failures to be restored and forgiven. The challenge is in how we respond to our own failures. In this study we will see from David’s life both of how we should and *should not* respond when we fail.

### Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

Are you the fan of a sports team that never seems to win?

## STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

### Q1. Read Acts 13:22; 2 Samuel 12:7-10

God called David a man after his own heart (Acts 13:22). What are some of the successes you associate with David’s life? In 2 Samuel 12, Nathan confronts David about his sin with Bathsheba. Up until this point it appears that David had not acknowledged his sin before God. What was his response to Nathan’s charge? (2 Samuel 12:13-14) The first step in overcoming our sins is acknowledging them. What are some more common but less productive ways we might respond when confronted by our sins and why would we choose to do so?

### Q2. Read 1 John 1:9; Galatians 6:7; 2 Samuel 12: 13-14; Hebrews 12:6 2 Samuel 12:16

By what means can we have our sins forgiven according to 1 John 1:9? Even when we confess our sins and are forgiven, there will be consequences because of them. Being forgiven of our sins does not eliminate all of their consequences (Galatians 6:7). What was one of the consequences of David’s sin (v. 14)? The God-sent consequences of forgiven sin accomplishes three things: it demonstrates the exceeding evil nature of sin, it shows that God does not take sin lightly even when he lays aside his punishment, and it humbles the forgiven sinner. What does God’s discipline reveal about his relationship to us? (Hebrews 12:6) So then when we sin, we should not fear God’s rejection or the loss of His love, because our identity is not based on our failures, but on our relationship to our heavenly father. How did

David approach God after confessing his sin? Like David, the conviction of our sins should drive us to seek God, it is the condemnation of the enemy that separates us from God.

### Q3. Read John 8:34-36; Psalm 139:23-24

God calls us His children, but we do not always obey Him. What role do we take on when we sin (John 8:34-36)? By addressing our sins through acknowledgement and confession we can be set free. It takes courage to acknowledge our failures, but if we don’t it is impossible to move beyond them. Psalm 139:23 asks God to search the psalmists heart and reveal any grievous, wicked or offensive ways. Do you feel you have a trusted friend who you can confess and pray together with?

## WRAP-UP

David certainly was used powerfully by God, but he, like us all, sinned. When he failed to acknowledge and deal with his sins, God sent Nathan to call him back to repentance and forgiveness through confession. But even forgiven sin has consequences. God can use those consequences to teach us the true significance of sin, and to humble us before Him. But God’s grace and love is greater than our sin, and when Jesus sets us free, we are free indeed.

## Memory Verse

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:9 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: (see back for more space) \_\_\_\_\_

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## Challenge

Set aside time today to come quietly before God and ask Him to reveal any areas that you need to acknowledge and confess so that you can walk in freedom.

