



FAILING FORWARD

09-29-2024

WORSHIP (15 MINS)

Venue: Home gatherings

Sing one or two songs or play a song from You Tube.

Venue: Public place (school, café, park, etc.) or **Via Online,**

Testimonies: "What is your "high" or "your "low" this past week?"

Opening Prayer: Pray for the Holy Spirit to bless your LG discussions.

WELCOME (15 MINS)

Welcome guests/first-time visitors.

Memory Verse for the week: Proverbs 24:16, *For though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes."*

Ice-breaker: *A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon. "How do you know what to say?" asked the little boy. "Why, God tells me." "Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?"*

WORD(30-45 MINS) Text: Proverbs 24:16

Intro: Proverbs 24:16 uses the number seven to illustrate that the righteous may face multiple failures but continue to rise.

1. The journey to success starts when we discover our God-given purpose. - The first step in failing forward is **TURNING TOWARD CHRIST AND ALLOWING HIM TO GUIDE THE WAY.** There is no such thing as failing forward if we're heading in the wrong direction to begin with. We may achieve success in business, career, or other pursuits, but without Christ guiding us toward His purpose for our lives, we will continue to experience failures in life.

Q: How many of us have already discovered God's plan and purpose for our lives? What are the possible concerns of not having a specific God-given purpose in our lives?

Q: Why is it important to have Christ guiding us in our plans for the future?

Application: - Purpose is the reason for our existence, and there is no greater source for that than God, our Creator. Just as a product has an inventor, every human being is created by God with a specific purpose in mind. Our purpose is not something we can invent or decide on our own; it is revealed to us by God.

2. Following Jesus is not all smooth sailing - Read Luke 9:22-23

Jesus Himself encountered challenges and hardships and He warned His disciples that they would face the same. This applies to us as well. As we follow Jesus, we will make mistakes and experience failures but we must never give up but continue to be faithful to the very end.

Challenge: When times get difficult, many might give up and choose to stop following Jesus. The truth is, the greatest failure in life is choosing to go our own way and not relying on Christ's guidance.

Q: Why do you think Jesus gave emphasis on the importance of daily commitment in following him?

Q: What do you think "take up your cross daily" mean in our daily lives?

Q: What has been your most challenging situation since you became a follower of Christ and how did the Lord help you overcome those challenges?

Leader's Tips:

- S - Sensitivity. No one should feel left out.
- P - Participation is encouraged.
- A - Acknowledge. Make guests feel welcomed.
- C - Confidentiality. What is shared stays in the group.
- E - Encouragement. Be a blessing to one another.

3. Trust Jesus at all times and keep moving forward - Read Romans 8:26, 28 -29a, 37-39

In Romans 8, Paul encourages us to stay steadfast in following Jesus. Why? Nothing can separate us from His love, and He is working through both the good and bad times in our lives to fulfill His purpose for our ultimate good. In fact, in times of great failure or weakness, we should all the more rely on the Lord, and see His power at work.

Q: Was there a time in your life when you felt you were on your own and had no one to help you? What did that experience teach you?

Q: When was the last time you were about to give up, but then God showed up in your situation and brought you through?

Q: How can you help someone who is struggling and about to give up in practical ways?

Conclusion (10 mins)

Peter is often remembered for his weaknesses, particularly when he denied Jesus three times during the night of Jesus' arrest. After the resurrection, feeling lost, Peter returned to his old life. However, Jesus met him at this crossroads, offering him a chance for restoration. This encounter was pivotal for Peter, as it showed him that he could turn to Christ for help in his discouragement. **Read John 21:2-19** Rather than being defined by his failures, Peter used them as stepping stones in his spiritual journey, ultimately becoming one of Christianity's greatest apostles. His story emphasizes that failure is not final and that redemption through Christ is always possible. In fact, his great failure, made him ready to rely in the Lord to move forward with Jesus to change the world.

What is your take-away from this lesson?

WORK: The Challenge (15 mins.)

- P- Pray** for one another. Ask "what can I pray for you?"
- R- Remind** to invite a friend on the next gathering.
- A- Apply** the message during the week.
- Y- Yearn** to share your faith with someone during the week.