

FAITHFULNESS AMIDST FAILURES

Word

Scripture Reference

John 21:1-19

Discussion Questions

1. What do you consider as a failure in your life?
2. You may be concerned about failing other people's expectations of you, but have you ever been concerned of the times you have failed God? You may have failed Him when you gave in to sin, compromised your convictions, did not prioritise Him, or did not live up to your commitment or promises to Him. While you may have a genuine desire to fully commit to follow Jesus, there may be times when you bail out when the going gets tough. Failures are a reality that can take a serious toll in your spiritual progress. How, then can you be faithful amidst your failure? Read John 21:1-19. By this time in John's gospel account, the resurrection had already taken place. Jesus showed Himself on resurrection evening to the disciples. He found them locked up in a room, fearful. Discuss the reasons why the disciples were afraid. Where were they when Jesus showed up again for the sake of Thomas? Why were these incidents a failure on the part of the disciples?
3. This passage teaches us about faithfulness amidst failures:
 - a. **Your failures can be a hindrance for you to endure (v. 1-3).** After seeing the disciples locking themselves up, you now find them at the Sea of Galilee to fish. Let us look at Peter in particular. Prior to Jesus' arrest and death, he was known for his boldness and being the "leader" of the group. Why was it difficult for him now to speak up for Jesus? Have you been in a similar situation when you were all up for God, but then you bailed out and failed God? In what ways can you fail God over and over again? Discuss why failures can cause you to find it difficult to move forward in your spiritual journey.

- b. *Despite your failures, (1) God's love never changes, (2) God continues to bestow grace, and (3) God seeks you to restore fellowship (v. 4-14).* Discuss what happened next in this account of Jesus and His disciples. Did they recognise Jesus right away? What Did Peter immediately do when he realised that it was Jesus who was talking (v. 7)? What did Jesus invite them to do with Him (v. 10, 12)? What does it tell you about Jesus, about His attitude toward His disciples in spite of the fact that they have failed Him? From your personal story, share how you know that God's love never changes, that He continues to bestow grace and He seeks you to restore fellowship with Him when you fail Him.
- c. ***In light of God's love and grace, your failures are not the end. Rather, they must lead you to love God more and mature you to be faithful to the end (v. 15-19).*** Jesus now shifts the focus to Peter. What did Jesus ask Peter three times? It must have struck Peter's heart when it dawned on him that what was happening alluded to the night of his denial, and so he was grieved. Why would Jesus asked Peter the same question repeatedly? How did that interaction with Jesus impacted the rest of Peter's life? Is God worth your love and faithful obedience? When you are tempted to make choices or decisions that would put God's name on the line, ask this question: "Who do I love more? Which will I give up? Do I give up the pressure of the world or the pleasure of God?"

Walk

Your life may have countless failures, yet God never gets tired of giving second chances. The book of Romans teaches that there is forgiveness and that God's love is unchanging and His grace unending, yet they are not a license to sin or to take sin lightly and continue in your failing. How do you respond to God's love and the second chance that He gives you when you fail Him?

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You that when I understand your love and grace, a life of gratitude is produced in me. Thank you that a life of gratitude is a life lived out of love for You and values the second chances You give. Help me Lord to recognise specific needs that You have met in my life. May Your faithfulness in my life encourage me to be faithful to you in all circumstances. In Jesus' name. Amen.