

PEOPLE OF

THE PASSION

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS WEEK 2

1. When you think of the word “failure,” what comes to mind? Is failure a good thing or a bad thing? Give an example of when failure would be a good thing and then an example of when it would be a bad thing. Read Romans 8:28. How could we apply this verse to our failures?

Answer – Failure would be a good thing whenever we are trying to do something that is bad. Example: I try to rob a bank and I fail. Failure can be a bad thing when I am trying to do something that is good. Example: I have failed every time I try to stop smoking. Romans 8:28 can be applied to failure because it tells us that no matter what happens, good or bad, God can cause a good result to come from any circumstance if we put even our failures into His hands. An example of this would be whenever our failures cause our future success because we learn from our failures and make necessary changes.

Philippians 1:6 (NLT2)

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

2. What does the Bible tell us about ourselves that guarantees that we will experience failure in our lives? What did Christ do to overcome this fact about humanity? How should what the above verse tells us encourage us after we have failed?

Answer – The Bible tells us in Romans 3:23 that we are all sinners, we all have a sinful nature which means that we will fail, we will sin. Jesus died on the cross to save us from the consequences of this failure on our part. We win in the end because we will go to heaven no matter what happens to us in this life, in spite of our failures. Philippians 1:6 should encourage us to never give up when we fail because God never gives up on us. He will continue to work in our lives until the day we are in the presence of Jesus himself.

3. Pastor Jason shared that one of the causes of failure is arrogance, when we overestimate our own strength. Read Matthew 26:31-35 and talk about how Peter displayed arrogance. Share with the group a time that you experienced failure because you thought too highly of your own abilities. Read James 4:6 together. According to this verse, how does being prideful guarantee that we will fail? Read Romans 12:3. What does this verse say we should do that would guarantee our success?

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Answer – Peter obviously overestimated his own ability to remain faithful to Jesus. That is why he denied Him three times. James 4:6 says that when we are proud in ourselves we are guaranteed to fail because God Himself will resist us. Romans 12:3 says we should not think of ourselves more highly than we should, we should look at ourselves as being capable only because God makes us capable.

4. The second cause of failure that Pastor Jason shared with us was self-protection – overvaluing my personal safety and comfort. Read Matthew 26:69-75. Do you think the reason Peter failed and denied Christ was because of fear for his own safety? Explain how you think fear of what people might say or do to us can cause us to fail in our commitment to Christ. How could this type of fear keep us from sharing Christ with other people? Read Joshua 1:6-9. What did God command Joshua to be? What did God tell Joshua to do that would guarantee his success? How can we apply these verses to our lives?

5. How do you think the devil uses our failures against us to ensure we will continue to fail? What must we do to ensure that we do not fall into that trap of the devil?

Answer – Satan will always remind us of our failures and attempt to make us feel guilty because of our past failures. He tries to convince us that because we have failed in the past, we are doomed to fail if we keep trying. These are lies. We must embrace that God is a loving and merciful God. We must admit when we fail, we should never blame others for our failures. But then we must believe that God forgives us and He does not continue to hold our failures against us and rely on His strength to overcome our failures. Guilt over a past failure is always from Satan, not from God. The name Satan literally means “accuser.”

