

3. Avoiding repeated sin and failure is something we all hope to do as we follow Christ. But we all have also seen others experience, or have experienced ourselves, the reality of falling back into the same pattern of repeated sin and failure. Fortunately, God has given us some spiritual practices that can help decrease the temptation to presume upon God's second chances and at the same time strengthen us for consistent obedience. How might the following passages speak to this?

- Psalm 119:9-11
- 1 Corinthians 15:33
- Philippians 4:8
- 2 Timothy 2:22

Looking back over these passages again, what are some specific applications and ways to put these into action this week? Have you found one of these practices to be more helpful than the others? Is there one of these practices you feel you need to apply in your life right now?

A great way to wrap up each week is to pray for one another. Praying for each other by name and then sharing how God answers our prayers and sustains us until he answers our prayers is one of the greatest blessings of being in a small group.

How can your small group pray for you this week?

Don't Let Failure Defeat You

Pastor Dave Nichols, Grace Point Church, January 18th, 2015

Three Keys To Understanding Failure: (Luke 22:31-32)

1. Satan is _____ and works in the:

- _____
- _____
- _____

2. Failure is an _____, not a _____.

3. Failure can be _____
or _____.

How To Overcome Failure:

(Luke 22:54-62, John 4:1-42, John 21:15-19, 1 John 1:9, 2:1-2, Hebrews 7:24-25, 1 Peter 2:2, Satan: 1 Peter 5:8, John 8:44, 10:10, Ephesians 6:11, Revelation 12:9-10)

- Call sin, _____ ... and _____!
- _____ and ask _____.
- Listen to what _____ about you, not _____.
- Remember that Jesus won't _____, even when we _____.

This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to our first small groups meeting for 2015!! For the next 11 weeks (including the week), our group will be meeting to encourage each other as we study the Bible together and support one another. Our last meeting will be the week of March 29th, which is the week before Easter. We believe that over the next 11 weeks God will use this time to help shape us to be more like Jesus. As a group we will continue to study passages from the book of Luke and other related passages and learn how God's truths can be lived out in our everyday lives. May this season of our small groups be life changing for GPC!

Getting Started:

Go around the circle and share a little about yourself. (Where you grew up, how long you've lived in San Diego etc.) What is one 'New Year Resolution' that you would like to accomplish in 2015?

Quick Review:

Looking back over Luke 22:31-38; and Luke 22:54-62 and your notes from this week's message, what new or not so new insight challenged you or was helpful to you?

Peter is an example of how failure can provide much needed wisdom for our future. What lessons have you learned from failures, mistakes, regrets etc. from your past?

Pastor Dave encouraged us to call sin, sin and own it as way to overcome failure. Rather than taking responsibility for our faults, what common excuses are tempting to hide behind when confronted with our shortcomings?

It is important to listen to what God says about us to combat Satan's lies and accusations. Read the following verses that describe what God says about you if you have chosen to become a Christ follower:

Galatians 3:26, John 15:15, 2 Corinthians 5:17, 1 Corinthians 6:19, Ephesians 2:10, 1 John 1:9, Ephesians 4:24, Ephesians 2:5, Philippians 3:20, Romans 5:8, Matthew 5:13-14, Romans 8:1-2

Pastor Dave mentioned that Jesus won't fail us even when we fail him. How has God graciously loved you, provided for you and showed you that he isn't finished with you after a failure in your life?

Digging Deeper:

1. King David is a great example of someone who faced failure and sin in his life. One of those failures was an affair he had with a neighbor's wife and a cover-up that included the murder of her husband. How do you see David respond to his sin in Psalm 51:1-17?

When it comes to dealing with your own failure and sin, is there any part of David's prayer that would be helpful for you to use?

What challenges or benefits can you see from taking the advice given to us in James 5:16?

2. Have you ever thought that someone who was confessing or apologizing for something wasn't really "owning up" to his or her stuff? How does 2 Corinthians 7:8-11 help us understand what true confession is?

How might this kind of true repentance affect your confession to others, and/or to God?

What does "godly grief" look like and how does that lead to salvation?

What does "worldly grief" look like and how does that produce death?