

Change Points!

Week Six – Failure

Memory Verse: Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat; I am. (Jesus – Mt. 16:24, The Message Translation)

Video introduction by Pastor Steve

Recap of week 6 "Change Points!" message – Failure:

- A story of a son who failed. (Lk. 11:1-2)
- I failed. (Lk. 15:11-16)
- I'm a failure. (Lk. 15:17-19)
- When we fail we expect to be treated like a failure.
- My father does not treat me as a failure, he restores me! (Lk. 15:20-32; Rom. 3:23-24)
- I failed. I'm a failure. Jesus forgives! (Jn. 3:17; 1 Jn. 1:9) Jesus restores! (2 Cor. 5:17)
- Restoration is resurrection!

Next Step:

- It's time to go home and be welcomed by the Father!
- Welcome home those the Father is restoring!

Questions to explore:

1. Share a story of a time you failed at something as a child, how you, friends, and parents reacted, and how that affected you.
2. We tend to think that failure disqualifies a person. Name biblical characters who failed and were still used by God in his work in this world. (If you need help getting started see: Ex. 2:11-14; Ex. 32:1-5; 2 Sam. 11; Mt. 26:69-75; Acts 8:1)
3. What's the difference between seeing yourself as someone who has failed vs. someone who is a failure? How does taking on the identity as a failure affect one's life? How does one taking on the Christ-given identity of being forgiven affect one's life?

Challenge question:

- For silent reflection or sharing with the group if you're comfortable. Is there someone who, because they failed at something in the past, that you have judged as a failure? What would it look like for you to stop judging them as a failure and start seeing them as a person that God the Father is welcoming home into his family?
- For silent reflection or sharing with the group if you're comfortable. Is there something you failed at in your life journey that seems to be trying to get you to take on the identity of being a failure? In a time of silent prayer, present what you failed at to Jesus and ask his forgiveness. Receive assurance of forgiveness by reading 1 John 1:9 – But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all wickedness.