

**Getting Past Your Personal Failures      October 28, 2012**

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.

- Describe a time when you lost a competition or contest. What did you learn from your failure?

**With your Bible or YouVersion read 1 John 1:9 and Jeremiah 31:34.** These verses tell us that our sins are never too big for God's grace.

- What are some of the lessons you've learned from your past failures?
- In what ways are the personal failures of your past still impacting you today?
- Why is it so difficult for us to forgive ourselves even after God has forgiven us of all our sins?

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:17** This verse explains that our identity is not based upon what we have done, but rather whom God says we are.

- Failure is an event - never a person. What does that statement mean to you and how can you draw strength from it?
- What are some of the lies you have believed about yourself as a result of your past failures?

**Read Philippians 3:12-15** This passage encourages us to realize that while we can't change our past, God can change

our future.

- Describe a past failure that you have fully overcome. How did you successfully overcome it?
- What does God's grace and forgiveness mean to you? How has it changed you and helped you overcome your failures?

Here are some specific things you can do this week that will help you in getting past your personal failures and embrace the future God has planned for you.

- Because overcoming the pain of personal failures can be a difficult process for most people, take the first step of spending additional time with God in prayer. Pray specifically that He will deliver you from the pain and bondage caused by your past failures. Allow Him to renew your mind as you pray.
- There are many great examples in God's Word of people who overcame their mistakes and embraced God's future. Read the following verses this week and allow them to renew your mind: Hebrews 4:14-16; Jude 1:24-25; Psalm 37:8 and 73:26; Philippians 3:12-15; Joshua 7:1-15; and Romans 8:37

**Talk It Over with God:**

These prayer tips can guide your time alone with God each day. Praying with a friend or a small group might help you stick to it.

- Confess to God those sins that you have not asked forgiveness for. Ask Him to forgive you and cleanse you from the stain of sin..
- Tell God your past failures that you continue to struggle with. Ask Him to help deliver you from these feelings.
- Ask God to help you forgive yourself of your past failures just as He has forgiven you of your sins.
- Thank God for His forgiveness and grace in your life.
- Ask God to help you stop focusing on your past failures and instead focus on the future He has for you.