



## YOUR FAILURE IS NOT FINAL

### Part I: Let Yourself Grieve

#### Sermon Big Idea

Failure is unavoidable in life. Despite our best of intentions and no matter how hard we work, there will always be times in life where we experience sorrow, loss, grief, and failure. But that doesn't have to be the end of the road; this Sunday we began a series on the Parable of the Lost Son, and we're exploring how failure affects us, and what we can do to move forward.

Throughout the Israelite's history, suffering and grief were constant themes, but instead of hiding their sorrows away, they expressed their grief and allowed God to meet them in their grief.

#### Discussion Questions

1. What is an example of a time when you failed at something? It could be something humorous, or something that was difficult to overcome.
2. Read **Luke 15:1-2** Why did Jesus tell parables in response to the complaints of the religious leaders and Pharisees?
3. Read **Luke 15:11-16**. What has the younger son lost at this point in the parable. Why do we find it difficult to stay here at the lowest point in the parable's story?
4. Why do we naturally want to avoid our grief or hide it away?
5. Pastor Brian spoke about Israel's history starting with **Genesis 12:1-3**. How was suffering, grief, and failure part of their whole story?
6. Open up the book of **Lamentations**, and pick any group of 4-5 verses to read. What do these verses say about the emotions of the author?
7. Read **Isiah 54:1-8**. What is God promising to Israel in this passage?
8. What are some examples of unhealthy and healthy ways to grieve?
9. Are you willing to let Jesus meet you in your grief?
10. What do you need to let yourself grieve about?

Break into groups of 2-3 people and take a moment to share something you have been grieving about. Take time to pray for each other to experience God's unfailing love and faithfulness in the midst of our grief. (John 1:17)

#### Scripture Passages

##### Luke 15: 1-2, 11-16

Jesus tells a parable about a lost son to explain to the pharisees why he spends time with tax collectors and sinners.

##### Genesis 12:1-3

God makes a covenant promise to Abram, that begins the story of the Israelites and God's bigger plan.

##### Lamentations 1:1-2

The book of Lamentations is poetry of sorrow, the prophet is crying out in their grief over the fall of Jerusalem and the temple.

##### John 1:17

John contrasts the law of Moses and the love of God in the beginning of his gospel.

##### Matt 5:3-4

Jesus preaches about blessings for those who mourn.



&

