

Life Group Questions w/b Sunday 28 February 2021

2nd Sunday in Lent: Facing Failure

Introduction

- How hard have you found it to adjust to the last year of lockdowns?
- Did you have any plans, or aims and ambitions at the start?
- How difficult have you found it to fulfil your plans, and how have you felt about this?
- What have you learned?

Peter has been one of Jesus' most enthusiastic followers for three years. But at the crucial point, as Jesus is arrested and tried before the Sanhedrin (the Jewish religious court), Peter disowns knowing Jesus. Almost immediately, he is full of remorse and weeps at his failure to identify himself with Jesus.

Read: Mark 14:66-72

- Have there been times in your life when you felt you have failed?
- How much does it matter? Are success and failure important?
- Why do you think Peter felt so intimidated? (14:66-68) Can you think of any times when you could have been bolder about sharing your Christian faith?
- Peter breaks down and weeps. (14:72) The British are renowned for 'the stiff upper lip'. How far do you think this is still true, and would it be helpful if we shared more openly how we really felt?

At this point in his life Peter thinks he has failed as a disciple of Jesus Christ. But after the resurrection he discovered that in turning to Jesus we can be remade. All our guilt (feeling bad about what I've done) and shame (feeling bad about who I am) can be forgiven by Jesus, and we can have a fresh start.

Read: John 21:15-19

- How easy do you find it to be forgiven, and to have a fresh start?
- What new job does Jesus have for Peter, and what are the qualifications?
- What stands out here as the most important qualification for Christian service?
- Does failure teach us to love more?

Prayer Focus Suggestion

Write down any failure from the past year. Lay your pieces of paper at the foot of a cross, commit them to God and then dispose of them. Claim the promise of Romans 8:1-2.