



# LEARNING FROM FAILURE

(2 Peter 1:1-15)

## Message Reflection Guide

Mickey Mouse creator Walt Disney dropped out of school at a young age in a failed attempt at joining the army. One of his earlier ventures, Laugh-o-Gram Studios, went bankrupt due to his lack of ability to run a successful business. He was once fired from a Missouri newspaper for “not being creative enough.” Yet today, “the genius” behind Disney studios is responsible for generations of childhood memories and dreams. From *Snow White* to *Frozen*, Disney will continue to entertain the world for generations to come. Recognize the benefits of failure. Failure educates us. We may have made more mistakes than successes. However, we chalk it up as education. We try something, and if it doesn’t work, then we scrap it and try again. At least, we’re erring on the side of righteousness. God delights in a heart desirous to serve Him. Failure also makes us less judgmental. When you fail, you become a lot more sympathetic, sensitive and kind to others. Failure will restrain your arrogance. It will cause you to be less judgmental. If there is no other reason for failing except that we learn to be a little more merciful to others when they fail, that is a great reason. We can learn a lot from failure.

## CONVERSATION STARTER

Share a time when you messed and think about the lesson it taught you. Perhaps something like a speeding ticket.

## GETTING INTO THE SCRIPTURES

**Read Matthew 26:31-35, 75** How do you think Peter felt when he heard the rooster crow? Did he overcome that feeling overnight?

What are some of the promises of God that have sustained you as you went through a difficult time?  
(2 Peter 1:4)

**Read 2 Peter 1:5-8** On Sunday Bob talked about adding to our faith the character traits of virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness godliness and brotherly love. Why is it important for us to work on these character traits?

Over in 2 Timothy 4:6-8 the Apostle Paul is nearing the end of his earthly life, just as Peter was when he wrote his 2 Peter letter. They both portray the Christian life as requiring an all-out effort. How do you reconcile this Paul's teaching in Ephesians 2:9 "it is by grace you are saved, through faith because it is the gift of God., not of works lest any man should boast?"

**Read 2 Peter 1:12-14** What are some "things" we need fellow believers to remind us about?

## **MAKING IT REAL**

How should we respond to a brother or sister in Christ going through problems, perhaps problems they created themselves?

When someone challenges my point of view, how do I react? Who have you given permission to speak constructive criticism to you?