



RIVERSIDE
CHURCH

BEYOND LOCKDOWN

Opening up to life



I FEEL LIKE A FAILURE

Finding freedom in a
success-driven world

1. Think of a time in your life when you failed. What happened? How did it feel?

2. Everybody fails at some point. Why do you think we find it so difficult when we do? Why do we struggle to admit it?

3. In Ecclesiastes 2:22-26, the author reflects on the meaninglessness of things, and urges people to find joy in the small things of life. What do you make of this?

4. It's almost as if the author is reminding us that everything let's us down in the end - they fail us - and so enjoy the good things you can. But don't get caught up on believing that your achievements in life will satisfy you. No, they'll only fail you in the end. And so, the only response is to 'please God' and enjoy the good things he gives. How does this change how you see failure?

INTRO:

In a survey at the end of 2019, over 40% of British 18-30 year olds were afraid of failing in life. Whether it's doing badly in exams, ruining a good career, or getting a relationship wrong, many of us are simply terrified of the very idea of failing. What do we do with these feelings? And, where can we go if we actually have failed? Is there any hope of freedom in our success-driven world?

BIBLE:

Ecclesiastes 2:22-26; Psalms 37:23-24; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10; Hebrews 4:16

5. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. The author, Paul, is reminding us that our weaknesses, our failures, are a gift because they help us we realise that we are not God. When we fail, it just shows us how much we need a saviour! If we try and hide our failure we are pretending we don't need a saviour. But as we recognise our failure, we are forced to depend on Jesus as our saviour. How does this change how you see your failure?

6. Take some time to pray. Confess your need of a saviour, and recognise your failures. Then thank him for the truth that Jesus sets us free from failure.

A PRAYER

Lord, help me let go
of my fear of failure.
I know Satan
wants to use my fears
to hold me back from
living boldly for You.

Forgive me for
not living in faith,
and help me from
this moment on
to live with
bold confidence in You.

Lord, help me
not compare myself
to others around me.
I pray instead that
I can keep my eye on You
and live a life
that proclaims Your excellence.
In Jesus' name I pray,
Amen.

Rick Warren

ACTION

Tell someone who is not conventionally 'successful'
the different ways that they inspire you.