

4 HANDOUT FOR TESTING THROUGH FAILURE

KEY TRUTH

Sometimes God allows us to make mistakes, so that we may learn to let Him guide us in the way we should use our freedom.

TO THINK ABOUT

Think about a time when you fell short of God's standard for your life.

- How did you react?

Was it easy to be honest with God about your sin, or did you want to make excuses for yourself?

- How did it make you feel about God?

What does God feel about you?

Does God accept you back completely after you have failed?

- What counts as a "failure" in the Christian life?

Is it worse to do something wrong, or not do something that is right?

Make a list of some well-known characters of faith from the Bible (eg Abraham, Jonah).

- Can you think of a time when each of them fell short of God's standard or failed in fulfilling God's purpose for them?

What happened next?

Did God stop using them?

- Can failure help you to grow in your faith?

Thank God for His grace and forgiveness.

Tell God that you want to do what is right, and ask for His help each day.

BIBLE CHECK

The gospel for failures

Luke 5:29-32; 1 John 1:5-10

The weakness of human nature

Romans 7:15-20; James 3:2-10

God's promise of success

Nehemiah 1:4-11; 4:9,15-20

The gospel of new beginnings

Romans 6:1-11; 1 John 2:1-6

POSTSCRIPT

While God understands and forgives our failures, we cannot excuse them. He is always ready to help us do what is right.

