



Week Leading up to 5.8.22: Failure and Disappointment

***{Start with reviewing the previous meeting's challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: **Acts 13:14, 43-52**

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Come, Holy Spirit! Give us the grace to remain faithful when life seems disappointing or discouraging. Give us the zeal, enthusiasm, and persistence to keep inviting others into the happiness You offer through faith. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. In today's first reading the Jews in Antioch reject the saving message from Paul and Barnabas and even incite a mob to get them expelled from the city. Have you ever struggled with the frustration and disappointment of people rejecting an offer of love, truth, or goodness?

YouTube Video: Feel like You're Failing at Ministry? (6:49 min) - <https://youtu.be/V3xFIT-AipU>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. What are some of your initial thoughts from watching this video?
3. What do you think of the Mother Theresa quote, "God asks for our faithfulness, not our success?" Shouldn't faithfulness reap rewards of success?
4. Bobby mentions that "we are not entitled to see the fruit of our work." This can be difficult to hear and live without growing discouraged. What do you think of this notion?
5. They both note that even Jesus -God and savior- had people walk away from Him and His teaching. Does this change how you view "successes" and "failures" of your own ministry?
6. How do you think we can build and sustain a resilience to failure and disappointment? Is there something you do and find helpful with that?
7. What do you think God is calling you to be faithful to right now (regardless of success)?

Session Challenges: {Choose one or both}

- Call to mind the people and situations when you have sought to be faithful, and it didn't yield the "success" you desired. Then pray and even consider a small sacrifice you can offer up for that person or past situation.
- Think about someone whose faithfulness made a difference in your life and may not know it. Reach out to share with them how the fruit of their work affected your life.

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.)

Lord Jesus, we hear You calling to us to be faithful. We ask that You plant the seeds of faith in our hearts and cover us with Your supernatural grace so that we may not become discouraged when we stumble and fail. May we take comfort in knowing that we may not see the fruits of our work but know that our sharing Your love is enough. Jesus Christ, You are our light and Savior! Amen.

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 2: **Rev 7:9, 14-17**; Gospel: **Jn 10:27-30**