

# LHCF Sermon Discussion Guide

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## Failure: Back Door to Success 2 Cor. 4:16-18 (MSG)

*“So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever.”*

### 1. Why we don't “give up” in failure experiences:

- **We fail outwardly so we can succeed inwardly**

*“Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace.”*

- **We fail in the insignificant so we can succeed in the important**

*“These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us.”*

- **We fail in the temporary so we can succeed in the eternal**

*“The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever.”*

Remember: Everything in this world is temporary and therefore vulnerable to “here today, gone tomorrow”. Only 2 exceptions, 2 eternal things on earth...souls & God's word. That is why Jesus told us to invest our time, talent, treasure into these two.

Matt 6:19-21 *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

## 2. Mature responses to failure:

- **Acknowledge it**

*"Indeed, we all make many mistakes" James 3:2 (NLT)*

- **Accept God's forgiveness**

*"But if we confess our sins to him, he can be depended on to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong. And it is perfectly proper for God to do this for us because Christ died to wash away our sins. If we claim we have not sinned, we are lying and calling God a liar, for he says we have sinned." 1 John 1:9-10 (LB)*

- **Apply lessons learned toward success**

*"As Simon Peter was standing and warming himself, they said to him, "Aren't you one of that man's followers?" Peter said it was not true; he said, "No, I am not." One of the servants of the high priest was there. The servant said, "Didn't I see you with him in the garden?" Again Peter said it wasn't true. At once a rooster crowed." John 18:25-27*

*"So they called them back in and told them that under no condition were they to speak or to teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, "You yourselves judge which is right in God's sight — to obey you or to obey God. For we cannot stop speaking of what we ourselves have seen and heard." Acts 4:18-20 (TEV)*

- **Aside from failure and start again**

*"Then the Lord spoke to Jonah a second time: Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh, and deliver the message I have given you. This time Jonah obeyed the Lord's command and went to Nineveh." Jonah 3:1-3 (NIV)*