

HOPE WINS WEEK 3 LIFE GROUP APPLICATION REBOUNDING HOPE

Introduction: In today's lesson we are learning about the hope Jesus wants to give us in the area of our failures. We are learning that God can redeem our failures when we respond to his invitation to humble ourselves, learn from our mistakes, and receive grace. We shared that we need hope the most when we feel like we deserve it the least. We see from Jonah's example that God can turn our biggest mess into our greatest mission and ministry.

Questions for Bible Application

1. Does anyone have a testimony of experiencing the "kiss of Jesus" (as the *Prodigal Son* experienced) at a time you felt like you least deserved it? How did that impact you?
2. The idea of rebounding is learning how to respond to a negative experience in a positive way. We emphasized that choosing to respond to failure in the right way is a life and death kind of choice. (Peter/Judas). Proverbs 24:16 says "*the righteous man falls seven times but rises again, while the wicked person falls in their calamity.*"
What makes it hard for you to rise when you fall, to rebound when you miss it?
3. In the sermon Dale challenged us to take time to consider what it means not just to act like a Christian but to also react like a Christian. Our reactions can reveal things in our life that God wants to work to change. What are some reactions that you've had during this COVID-19 crisis that the Lord might want to help you be transformed?
4. In Jonah 2, we discussed 5 ways Jonah responded that allowed him to experience rebounding hope. Which one speaks especially to where *you* are today?
 - a. The need to take time and reflect on your life to learn from your mistakes and challenges.
 - b. The need to humble yourself and ask for help from God and others.
 - c. A willingness to receive grace by faith even when you don't deserve it.
 - d. A decision to not just learn from failure but turn your failure into a gift of hope for someone else.
5. Jonah shared that people have idols that cause them to forfeit the grace of God. What is something in your life that keeps you from freely receiving the "kiss of grace" God has for you, apart from anything you deserve or can do?
 - a. Fear that facing my failure could mean giving up control.
 - b. Fear of looking bad in other's eyes and losing people's approval-pride.
 - c. An unwillingness to forgive myself and give up the feeling that I should pay for what I've done.
 - d. A belief that God is disappointed in me and sees me as a second-class citizen.
 - e. Fear of humiliation, shame, or rejection.
6. What is something that was bad in your past that God wants to use for good in helping others?