

“GOD DIDN’T SAY THAT” BIBLE APPLICATION
TRUTH ABOUT OUR GUILT AND FAILURES
LESSON 4

“For though the righteous man falls seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes.” Prov. 24:6

1. **Icebreaker:** Can you remember an embarrassing moment you’d like to share that you were able afterwards to laugh about?
2. The Bible teaches about the dangers of covering over, justifying, and being in denial about mistakes sins and failures. In Jeremiah 6:14-15, we read of false prophets, who “healed the wounds of people falsely” by minimizing their wrong. Dale mentioned that even when our minds forget, our heart remembers. Excuses and rationalizations can’t heal our heart.

What are some examples of ways you’ve heard people minimize or cover up sins? How have you been tempted to do this? What happened when Adam and Eve were confronted in Genesis three. Why did they not get restored?

3. How is the solution that Jesus offers for sin and failure different than what religion or the Old Testament law provided? Why does it never work to find righteousness and justification by our own good works? How did Jesus make a new way for us to be justified and vindicated in spite of our guilt?
4. Give examples of how an understanding of grace can free you to deal effectively with failure in the following ways:
 - a. Freedom to admit and be accountable for areas that I fail in.
 - b. Freedom to learn more easily from failure and let my mistakes be teachers not torturers
 - c. Freedom to discover how failure points to weak areas of my life where God wants His grace to be my strength
 - d. Freedom to learn to be grateful instead of guilty, gracious instead of judgmental
 - e. The power to forget the past and quickly move forward, because failure is an event; it is no longer an identity
5. Can you think of an example of how God has brought you closer to someone by admitting your struggles and failures to them? Is there a struggle or mistake that you would like to share today and receive the power of grace through the prayers and support of your group?