

5-Day Devotional: “The Empire Strikes Back – Finding Hope in Failure”

Day 1: How We Must Grow, Failure Shows

Scripture

John 21:15

“Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

Reflection

Peter’s failure wasn’t the end of his story it was the turning point. Like Luke entering the cave, we face moments that expose who we are becoming. Failure becomes a mirror. Will we deny it or let it reshape us?

Repentance

Confess the ways you've resisted growth by ignoring or covering up failure. Where have you chosen pride over transformation?

Prayer

Lord, I often run from the truth of my failures. But today, I surrender my failures to you. Teach me to see them as invitations to grow, not reasons to hide. Shape me into someone who feeds your sheep, not flees from the opportunity to grow.

Day 2: The State of Our Faith, Failure Reveals

Scripture

Matthew 17:20

“I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed... nothing will be impossible for you.”

Reflection

Failure reveals where our faith is anchored. In self? In outcomes? In control? Luke thought he was ready. Peter thought he was loyal. The disciples thought they could cast out demons. Faith isn’t about force of will it’s about the direction of our trust.

Repentance

Admit where your faith has been divided split between God and the safety nets you built. Identify the false foundations you've leaned on.

Prayer

God, today I lay down any of my failures knowing You will use all my pain and missteps for my good. Teach me to trust You alone.

Day 3: The End of the Story, Failure Is Not**Scripture**

Psalm 73:26

“My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”

Reflection

This isn't the end of the story, it's just the middle. Like Job, like Luke, like Peter, we often want resolution now. But God works in the shadows, in the valleys, in the broken, and in the waiting spaces of life.

Repentance

Lay down your timelines. Let go of your frustration that life hasn't resolved in the way or time you expected.

Prayer

Father, help me to see this moment as part of a bigger story. When I feel stuck in failure, remind me that You are still writing. Let hope rise in the middle of the mess.

Day 4: Who's Holding You Up?**Scripture**

Colossians 1:16–17

“...all things were created by him and for him... and in him all things hold together.”

Reflection

Star Wars speaks of a Force; Scripture speaks of a Father. You are not being held up by energy or effort. You're held by the hands of Christ. He is near. The question isn't, “Do you believe in yourself?” It's “Who is holding you together?”

Repentance

Confess the ways you've lived as if everything depended on your performance. Release the pressure to be your own savior.

Prayer

Jesus, hold me together. I've been trying to carry this alone, and I'm exhausted. Teach me to rest in the truth that You are holding all things—especially me.

Day 5: Don't Lose Heart**Scripture**

2 Corinthians 4:16–18

“Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.”

Reflection

This is the middle. Not the end. If you're walking through failure or weariness, don't confuse your current condition with your ultimate destination. The Father is still at work. Renewal is coming. Glory is ahead.

Repentance

Turn from despair. Turn from the lie that this is all there is. Turn toward the unseen, eternal reality of God's kingdom.

Prayer

God, when I can't see how things will work out, help me fix my eyes on what is unseen. Renew me today.

Group Discussion Guide

1. Where have you experienced failure that later became a turning point for growth? What did God reveal about your heart or habits?
2. Luke ran into danger trying to save others, something he wasn't ready for. Have you ever stepped out with good intentions but the wrong timing? What did it teach you about faith and surrender?
3. When you're in the “middle of the story,” what lies do you tend to believe about God or yourself? What truths from Scripture help you fight those lies?
4. Peter's story ended with restoration and purpose. Do you believe your failure can be redeemed like Peter's? Why or why not?
5. Psalm 73 speaks of God being the “strength of our heart.” What practical things help you renew your heart when it feels weak or weary?