



## Sermon Discussion Guide – **March 3, 2019**

**SERIES** – ROOTS: *Facing Times Of Drought*

**TITLE** - **“Facing Failure?”**

*Jeremiah 17:5-10 (NLT)*

**SUMMARY** - The Bible gives us wonderful examples of cultivating a deeper faith when we face spiritual drought. It is important to grow deep roots of faith so that when we are running on empty we still find hope and confidence in God’s faithfulness. The deeper we find our roots the more likely we will still produce fruit in times of drought. This week we look at Jeremiah’s words to the Israelites. As a prophet of God, Jeremiah pointed out the failures of God’s people, and calls them to renew their trust in God. We are reminded that we have a God of second chances.

### **DAILY STUDY & PRAYER**

### **Read / Reflect / Respond**

(*READ* the verse, take a moment to *REFLECT* on its meaning, *RESPOND* by writing down some thoughts and praying)

**Monday - Matthew 3:8** *“Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.”*

**Tuesday - 2 Corinthians 7:9** *“As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief...”*

**Wednesday - Jeremiah 17:9** *“The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?”*

**Thursday - Jeremiah 17:22** *“Do not do your work on the Sabbath, but make it a holy day. I gave this command to your ancestors,”*

**Friday - Acts 3:19–20** *“Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord...”*

**Saturday - Jeremiah 17:14** *“O Lord, if you heal me, I will be truly healed; if you save me, I will be truly saved. My praises are for you alone!”*

### **GROUP DISCUSSION**

(*This is only a guide – select the points you want to discuss or supplement with your own materials*)

Open with Prayer

1. What is something you remember from the sermon that stood out to you or never heard before?
2. How can our experiences with failure affect how we view ourselves and God?
3. Sometimes we need godly people in our lives to show us the ill effects of our moral failures. Why are those actions interpreted as being “judgmental” sometimes? If an act is done out of love, is it being judgmental?
4. “In my life I have failed as much as I have succeeded. But I love my life, I love my wife and so I wish you the same success.” This quote comes from Jerry McGuire. How does this quote reflect the realities of facing failure?

Close with prayer requests and prayer

### **NEXT STEPS** (Optional for group discussion)

1. **TEMPERATURE GAUGE** – How am I doing when it comes to feeling like a failure? Are my roots deep enough to handle it?
2. **RESPOND** – How is the Lord calling me to respond? In confession and repentance? Prayer for help and guidance? Seeking out a confidant or listening ear? Take a moment to write down one action step.
3. **PRACTICE** – What is one way that you can incorporate or practice deepening your roots this week?



## Sermon Discussion Guide Leader Notes

### Preparing to Lead Your Group

- ✓ **PRAY** for insight as you begin to prepare for leading your group. Ask for God's wisdom, that the Holy Spirit will be the teacher and that you will be God's instrument to lead the group to greater understanding and a willingness to commit to becoming more like God. *Prayer should be your primary source of personal preparation for leading your group!*
- ✓ **PLAN** where you want to take your group during the next series. Is your group strong in some areas and weak in others? How can you challenge the members to live more balanced Christian lives?
- ✓ **EVALUATE** after each session and at the end of a series. Reflect on what went well and what didn't. Re-evaluation is key to your growth as a leader. How are you doing with leading the discussion: is it stimulating, challenging, and meaningful? Are you able to keep the group on track? Do you need to make some changes?

### Using This Sermon Discussion Guide

- Review the discussion guide and sermon notes for this week. You can also view the sermon from our website, [www.faithunitedepc.org](http://www.faithunitedepc.org). As the discussion leader, you should preview and evaluate the questions based on the needs of your group.
- Feel free to adapt the format as needed. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, consider using the Next Steps section or add additional Scripture and resources. Remember this is only a guide and you don't have to complete all of it. It is a tool to promote good discussion. The goal is good discussion not necessarily getting through every question.
- The questions with Bible verses associated with them are there to encourage Bible literacy. So encourage different people to open their Bibles and read selected verses if they are willing and able.
- Your goal as the leader is to bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their needs for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.