

## Small Group Ministry Session Twenty-four: Failure

### OPENING WORDS

“Learning starts with failure; the first failure is the beginning of education.” *John Hersey (1914-93)*  
*U.S. Author*

“Failure or success seems to have been allotted to men by their stars. But they retain the power of wriggling, of fighting with their star or against it, and in the whole universe the only really interesting movement is this wriggle.” *E.M. Forster (1879-1970)* *English novelist*

### CHECK IN

Current state of physical or spiritual health

Joys or concerns about loved ones

Concerns/excitement about what is happening in our lives

### REVIEW COVENANT

### BREAK

### DISCUSSION

Rosalynn Carter said that “if you don’t accept failure as a possibility, you don’t set high goals, you don’t branch out, you don’t try—you don’t take the risk”

1. Growing up, what messages did you get about risk and failure?
2. What is your experience with failure?
3. How has failure contributed to your self-understanding?
4. What lessons have you learned from failure?

### CHECK OUT

What did you like about this meeting? What do you wish had been different?

### CLOSING WORDS

“It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes short again and again, who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause, who at best knows achievement and who at the worst if he fails at least fails while daring greatly so his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither.”  
*Theodore Roosevelt*