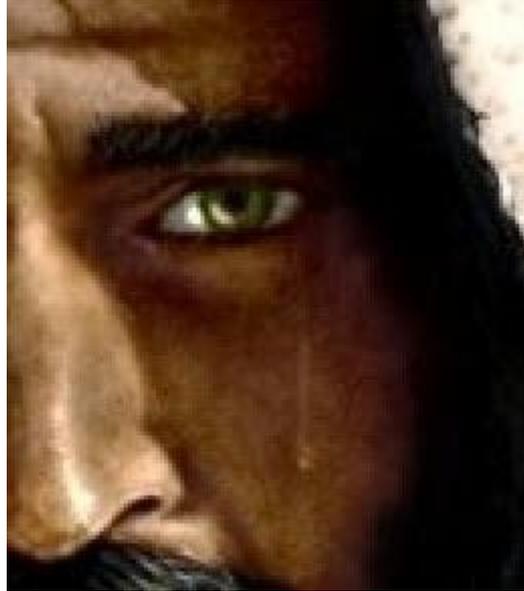


God's Strength in our weakness: Growing through mistakes discussion guide



based on **Matthew 16:15-19 and 1 Peter 1:1-9** (Linked to sermon of 27/06/21)
which can be accessed at www.stjamesbythepark.org/talks

This was part of a series: God's strength in weakness

Intro: Peter is one of the most interesting characters in the New Testament. A man who wears his heart on his sleeve and his foot in his mouth, yet whom Jesus renames The Rock on which the Christian church will be built. We're going to look at how God uses Peter, how he grows through his mistakes and perhaps recognise how God can work through us, through our mistakes and weaknesses.

How does this passage speak to our desire to be a God-dependent, grace-filled, Bible-based, mission-focused, authentic community?

Up (Go deeper with God):

Listen to this song <https://youtu.be/m5mhB6qInVk> or use Psalm 31 to enter into a time of confession and then of thanksgiving for God's grace and forgiveness.

Spend some time doing an overview of Peter in the Scriptures. As you read through some of the following Scriptures, you might like to chart his ups and downs, his highs and lows. Think about how you might describe Peter's character.

John 1:40-42
Luke 5:4-8
Matthew 16:13-20
Matthew 16:21-23
Matthew 26:69-75
John 21:15-23
Acts 3:1-10
Acts 10
Galatians 2:11-21
1 Peter 1:1-9

Now chat through some of the following questions:

- 1. If you were to describe Peter in 3 words, what would they be and why?*
- 2. What are Peter's greatest strengths and weaknesses? (they may be the same thing!)*
- 3. Why do you think Jesus calls Peter "the rock"? Has he shown rocklike characteristics at this point in time?*
- 4. How do you think God uses Peter's mistakes to transform him?*

In (Grow closer to each other):

You might like to do the next bit in small groups. Individually give yourself time to jot down some of the highs and lows of your own spiritual journey (allow at least 15 mins for this). Can you look back and see how God has used or transformed you through these? Share as much of this as you feel comfortable and then pray for one another.

Out (Reach further with the good news):

The good news is that "God has chosen what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of our life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written "let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord" 1 Corinthians 1:27-31. Spend a bit of time thinking about these verses and what they mean.

So often we feel the need to present ourselves to unbelievers as people who have their lives sorted out but I wonder whether being honest about our struggles (and acknowledging how God helps us) would bear more fruit for Jesus. Spend some time praying for unbelieving friends and family that God will give you opportunities to share your faith in a meaningful way, being honest about our failings but honouring God in the way He helps us.