



**Part Two: When Failure Qualifies You // Carey Nieuwhof //**  
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From the time you were young, you probably tried to avoid failure. Everyone does. But what if failure is exactly the thing you need to prepare you for what's ahead? So many people think God is absent in failure, but as Joseph learned when he met failure after failure, God is far more present than you think. Which means there's hope. Failure doesn't disqualify you from being used by God. Maybe it actually qualifies you.

**Scripture:** [Genesis 37-50](#) (selected verses)

**Bottom Line:** Failure doesn't disqualify you from being used by God--often it qualifies you.

**Getting Started:**

1. Think about your favourite movie or storyline? Why do you think the heroes in the journey encounter so many setbacks and failures? Why does this seem to be an almost universal plotline?

**Jumping In:**

2. Have you ever heard the story of Joseph before? If it was new, what were your initial thoughts? If you've heard it before, what stood out to you this time?
3. Carey covered a lot of Joseph's story from Genesis 37-50. How do you think you would have felt if you were Joseph?
4. When would you have most been tempted to give up? When your brothers sold you into slavery? When you were wrongly accused by Potiphar's wife? When you were unjustly thrown into prison? When your fellow inmates forgot all about you?

**Discuss:**

5. Several times in the Bible passage it says, "The Lord was with Joseph." Do you think Joseph felt like that was true? Why or why not?

6. Have you ever recognized God's presence in the midst of your setbacks? How can we be more aware of and attentive to his working in our lives, even when we don't see it or feel it?
7. Carey shared a story of his breaking as a leader. What do you think God was doing in his life at that moment?
8. Carey said, "Brokenness and humility are frequent companions." What's your response to this statement? Have you found this to be true in your life? How so?
9. In what ways have you fallen for the lie that failure disqualifies you from leadership or being used by God?
10. What's one failure in your life that is still hard for you to talk about? What failure (past or present) do you need to surrender to God? How do you think he could use it?

**Moving Forward:**

Choose a failure that you're either going through or have gone through...one where you convinced yourself God couldn't use you. Would you surrender it?

Pray this prayer or one like it. "God, my failure seems so deep. I can't even imagine that you could love me in the midst of it, let alone use it to your glory. Will you show me that you're with me? And will you open doors to use me and the experiences that have shaped me for your glory? I pray this in Jesus' name, amen."

*"So he took Joseph and threw him into the prison where the king's prisoners were held, and there he remained. But the Lord was with Joseph." [Genesis 39:20-21](#) NLT*