

This discussion guide is designed for Saylorville Church Community Groups as they live and learn together each week. The sermons and guides can be found at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- Pastor Colton opened with the story of Thomas Cranmer. What stood out to you about this story and how God used Cranmer's failure?
- Tell a story about a time you made a decision you knew wasn't wise - but did it anyway.
- When you think about failure, do you tend to minimize it, hide it, or feel crushed by it? Why?

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week's passage together. In his message, Pastor Colton pointed to the life of David to remind us that God is sovereign over everything - even sin in our lives.

God's Sovereignty Over Sin (2 Samuel 24:1; 1 Chronicles 21:1; James 1:13-15)

- How do these passages together help us understand the tension between *God's sovereignty* and *human responsibility*? Why is it important to hold both of those truths?
- Where are you currently tempted to blame God instead of taking personal responsibility?

The Danger of Self-Reliance (2 Samuel 24:3-4, 10)

- What clues in the text reveal David's heart behind the census?
- What human metrics are you "counting" right now that might be replacing trust in God?

Responding to Failure (2 Samuel 24:10, 14, 17)

- What differences do you see between David's earlier failures and his response here?
- Why is David's statement in verse 14 ("Let us fall into the hand of the Lord") so significant?

Costly Worship (1 Chronicles 21:24)

- Why does David insist on paying for the sacrifice? What does this teach us about the nature of true worship? In what ways can our faith become comfortable or "cost-free"?
- Be honest: Where may God be calling you to take a costly step of obedience right now?

God Uses Our Failures To Lead Us Into A Deeper Form Of Worship:

1. **Where we strive for dependence, not perfection**
 - Where are you striving to appear strong instead of admitting weakness?
2. **Where we realize we are not the main character**
 - What would it look like this week to intentionally live for Christ instead of yourself?
3. **Where we embrace costly love**
 - What is one tangible way you can sacrifice for Jesus this week?

Receive and Respond: What will I do because of what I just heard?

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- As a group, thank God for His sovereignty - even over sin and failure; confess areas of self-reliance and misplaced trust; ask for hearts that respond quickly to conviction; praise Jesus as the Better King who took your place; and pray for courage to walk in costly obedience this week

