International Fellowship of Christians
For Christ and His Kingdom · Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Home Fellowship Outline
WEEK 9 · 2026

2026 THEME
Transformed to Bear Much Fruit

THIS WEEK'S STUDY

Mistakes

2 Samuel 11–12 · Philippians 3:12–14

I Introduction

Every believer is a work in progress, gradually being transformed into the image of Christ. Along this journey we may stumble, fail, or make serious mistakes. Yet God's grace continually invites us back into relationship with Him. The key difference between spiritual growth and spiritual stagnation is not **whether** we make mistakes, but **how we respond** when we do.

II Four Responses to Failure

King David

After committing grievous sin, David was confronted by God through the prophet Nathan. Rather than turning away or hiding from God as Adam and Eve did, he humbled himself and returned in repentance. Restoration is possible when we bring our failures honestly before God. Repentance opens the door for restoration.

2 SAMUEL 11–12

Moses

Moses killed an Egyptian while defending an Israelite. Acting impulsively in his own strength forced him from prince of Egypt into exile as a humble shepherd. Yet God called him back and used him mightily, this time under divine authority rather than his own initiative. Failure does not disqualify those who surrender to Him.

Apostle Paul

Paul once fiercely persecuted Christians in misguided zeal for God. After encountering Christ, he refused to remain trapped in regret. He pressed forward in faith, forgetting what was behind and pursuing the calling God had placed before him.

PHILIPPIANS 3:12–14

Judas Iscariot

Not everyone responds to failure the same way. After betraying Jesus, Judas turned inward in guilt and despair rather than toward God in repentance. His tragic end reminds us that unresolved guilt can destroy us if we refuse God's grace.

DON'T LOOK BACK

Sometimes the mistakes of the past can haunt you. But don't look back, lest you turn into salt!

The lesson for believers is clear: when we sin, or feel burdened and overwhelmed by our past, repentance and trust in God's grace open the path to healing and renewed purpose. We must turn **toward** God rather than away from Him.

III Discussion Questions

1. Why do people often hide from God after they make mistakes, instead of turning to Him? What should their response be instead?
2. What differences do you see between the responses of David, Moses, and Paul compared with Judas?
3. How can believers avoid being trapped by guilt, shame, or regret from past failures?
4. What does it mean practically to "press on" in faith instead of becoming defined by our past?

MEMORY VERSE

Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 3:13-14

✷ ACTION POINT

This week, bring any past mistakes, guilt, or regrets before God in honest prayer. Receive His forgiveness, accept His grace, and consciously choose to move forward in faith, declaring that your past does not define your future in Christ.

Conclusion

Mistakes are a reality in every believer's journey, but they do not have to determine our final destination. The lives of David, Moses, and Paul show that failure does not disqualify those who humble themselves and return to God. In Christ, our failures can become testimonies of God's mercy and transformation as we continue growing into His image day by day.