


**Deep calls to Deep**

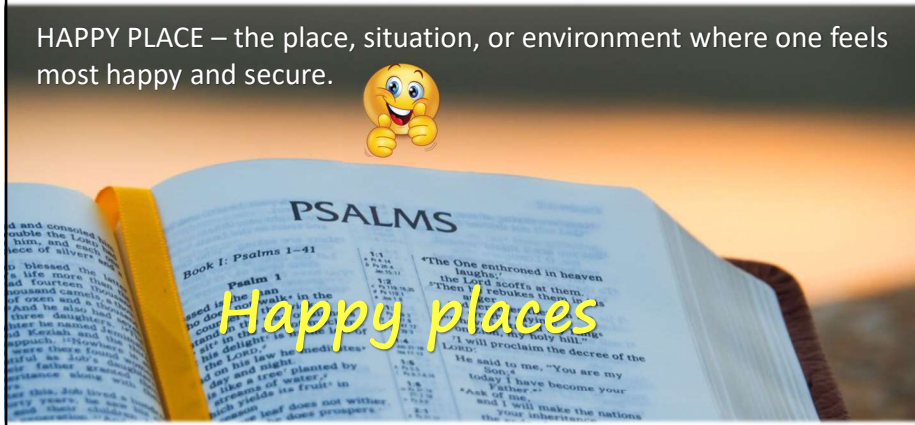
**session 3**  
**the depths of failure**



Spiritual formation in the hard places of life

**Happy Places & Safe Spaces**

HAPPY PLACE – the place, situation, or environment where one feels most happy and secure. 🤗



Session 2 Review

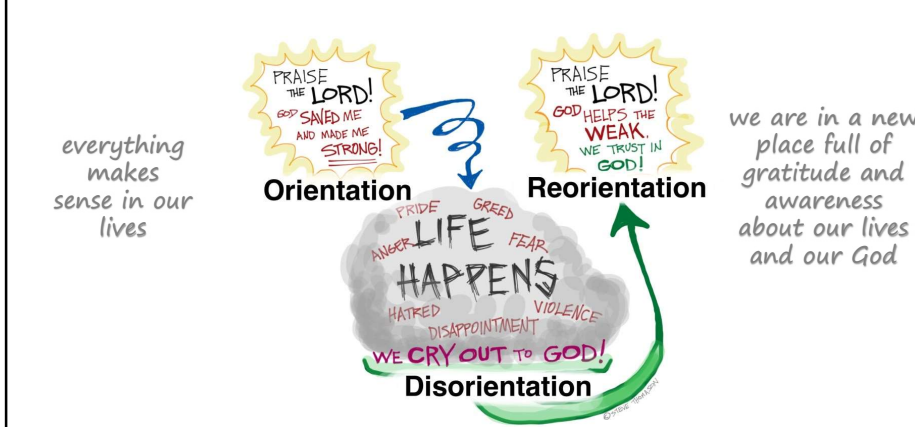
**Happy Places & Safe Spaces**

SAFE SPACE – a supportive, non-threatening environment where you feel comfortable to express yourself and share experiences without fear of judgement, discrimination or reprisal.



Session 2 Review

**Rhythm of Life: Orientation, Disorientation, Reorientation**



Orientation

Disorientation

Reorientation

we feel we have sunk into the pit

Session 2 Review

Reflection – Blessed be your name (Matt Redman)

Blessed be Your name  
When the sun's shining down on me  
*When the world's 'all as it should be'*  
Blessed be Your name

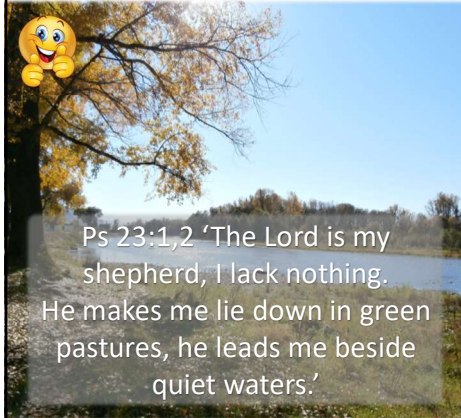
Blessed be Your name  
On the road marked with suffering  
Though there's pain in the offering  
Blessed be Your name

*What are our  
expectations  
about God  
and our  
Christian  
journey?*

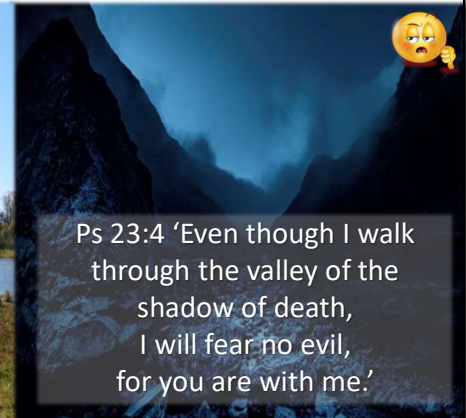


Session 2 Review

Reflection – Psalm 23



Ps 23:1,2 'The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters.'



Ps 23:4 'Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.'

Session 2 Review

**Deep calls  
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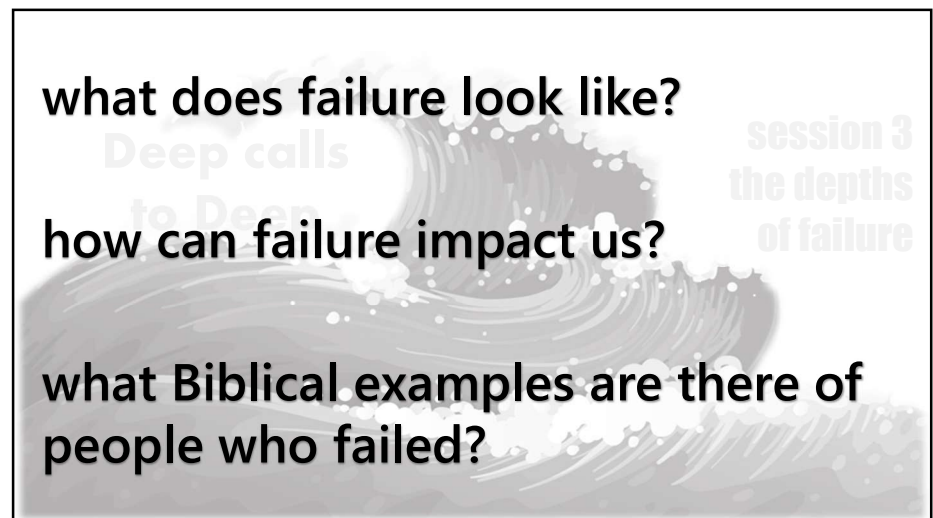


Spiritual formation in the hard places of life

**what does failure look like?**

**how can failure impact us?**

**what Biblical examples are there of people who failed?**



'Out of the depths ...' (Psalm 130 v1)

exploring and  
expressing the depths

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'Out of the depths ...' (Psalm 130 v1)

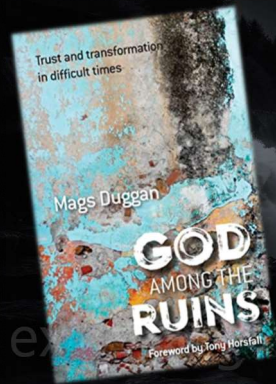
'True lament breaks open the depths of our hearts to God; it is an act of courageous faith which invites God to enter into the pain of the broken-open place and to be God there. The practice of lament has been described as the most profound demonstration of trust in a loving God because it demonstrates an unwillingness to let go of God no matter how awful the situation.'

exploring and  
expressing the depths

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'Out of the depths ...' (Psalm 130 v1)

'Lament is the opposite of despair which gives up on hope that something can be done, that believes that God is uninvolved and cannot be reached ... and it is worship. This form of worship, this offering up of our pain, honours God because it brings all that we are in the muddled mess of our lives and places it as an offering before God' (p44)



exploring and  
expressing the depths

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'Out of the depths ...' (Psalm 130 v1)

PSALM 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord;  
Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive  
to my cry for mercy.

If you, Lord, kept a record of sins,  
Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness,  
so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

exploring and  
expressing the depths

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*'Out of the depths...'* (Psalm 130 v1)

I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits,  
and in his word I put my hope.

I wait for the Lord  
more than watchmen wait for the morning,  
more than watchmen wait for the morning.

Israel, put your hope in the Lord,  
for with the Lord is unfailing love  
and with him is full redemption.  
He himself will redeem Israel from all their sin

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*'Out of the depths...'* (Psalm 130 v1)

Our expectations of what life is always going to be like may not match up to Psalm 145 but **our expectations of who God is should not be diminished.**

The Psalmist draws on this and gives three unchangeable truths about God:

- With you, there is **forgiveness**
- With him, there is **unfailing love**
- With him, there is **full (lit. multiplied) redemption**

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*'Out of the depths...'* (Psalm 130 v1)

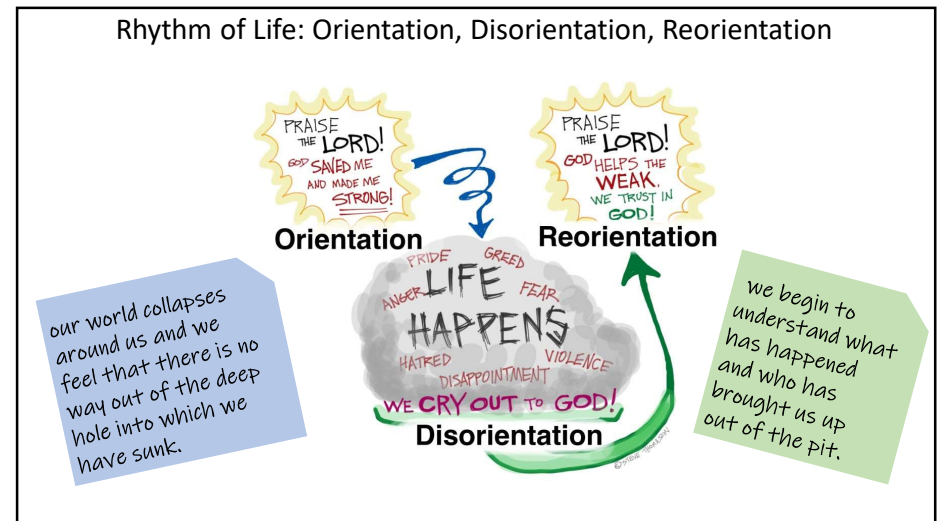
The average person throughout their lifetime spends five years waiting in lines and queues where roughly six months of that is waiting at traffic lights

That's a whole lot of waiting. Not too sure I like it!

I wait for the Lord, my whole being (soul) waits,  
and in his word I put my hope.

I wait for the Lord  
more than watchmen wait for the morning,  
more than watchmen wait for the morning

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Psalm 40:1-3

I waited ~~patiently~~ **expectantly** for the Lord;  
 he turned to me and heard my cry.  
 He lifted me out of the slimy pit,  
 out of the mud and mire;  
 he set my feet on a rock  
 and gave me a firm place to stand.  
 He put a new song in my mouth,  
 a hymn of praise to our God.  
 Many will see and fear the Lord  
 and put their trust in him.

*How has this  
 experience of  
 disorientation and  
 reorientation  
 changed David's  
 experience and  
 understanding of  
 God?*

**Success, Failure & Grace**

Sometimes to  
 properly  
 understand  
 failure, we need  
 to look at what  
 we see as  
 success as this  
 can shape our  
 understanding  
 and experience  
 of failure

**Expectations** – living up to other  
 people's standards/rules (often  
 parental or church?).

*I've always been trying to please  
 someone else – my parents, my  
 partner, my children.  
 I need their approval to feel that  
 I have succeeded.*

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**Perfectionist** – living up to  
 impossibly high personal  
 standards

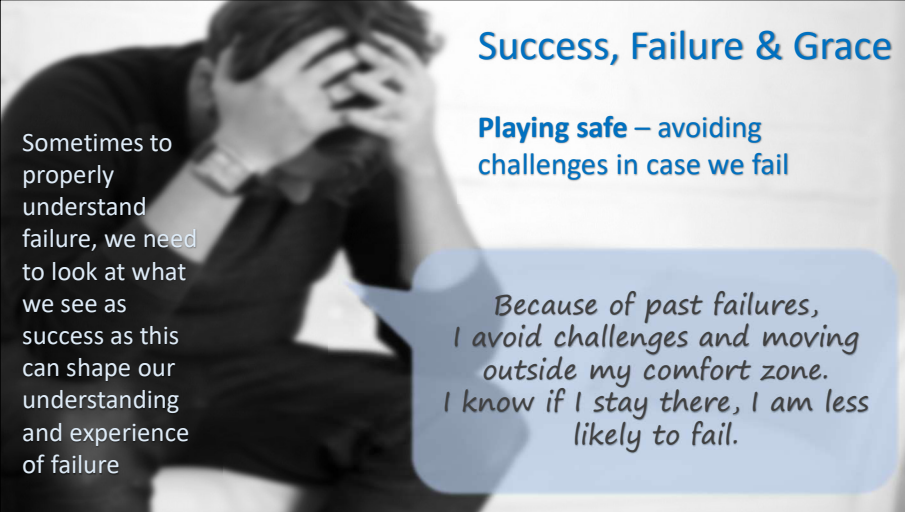
*I cannot settle for anything that  
 is less than the best or my best.  
 It is only when I reach that point  
 that I know that I have  
 succeeded. Anything less than  
 that is failure.*

**Success, Failure & Grace**

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 properly  
 understand  
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 success as this  
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 of failure

**Comparisons** – comparing  
 ourselves to others

*I feel that I have failed when I  
 compare myself with others in  
 my family, at work and even  
 church who are clearly more  
 successful or better than I am.*




## Success, Failure & Grace

Sometimes to properly understand failure, we need to look at what we see as success as this can shape our understanding and experience of failure

**Playing safe** – avoiding challenges in case we fail

*Because of past failures, I avoid challenges and moving outside my comfort zone. I know if I stay there, I am less likely to fail.*

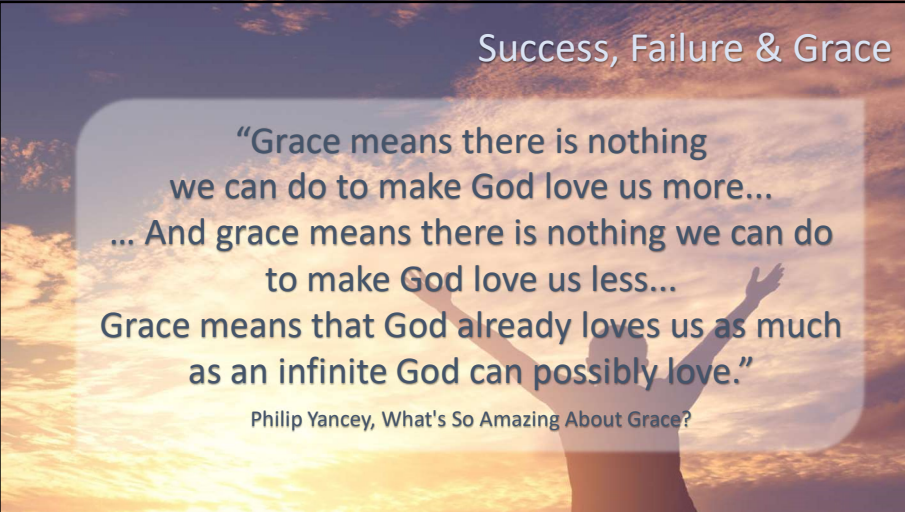


## Success, Failure & Grace

Sometimes to properly understand failure, we need to look at what we see as success as this can shape our understanding and experience of failure

**Performance culture** – often linked to education but also work. You're a high-flier!

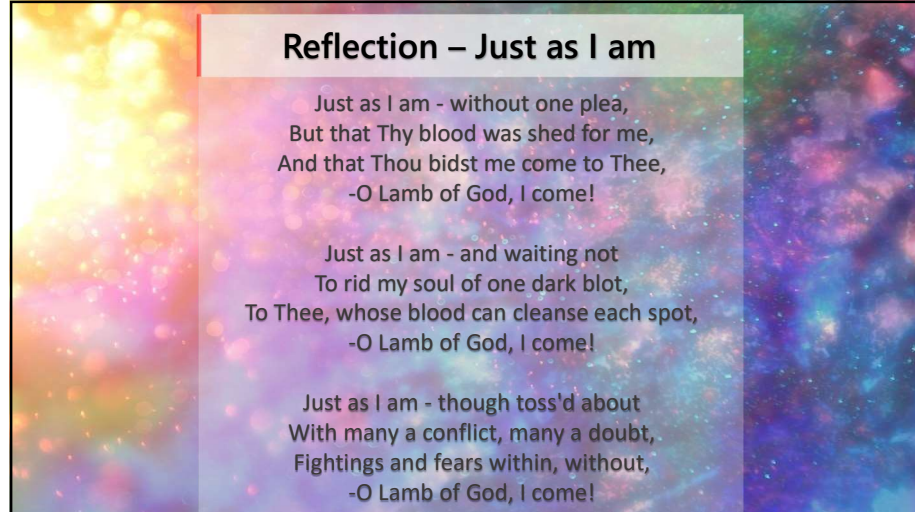
*I have been brought up in a high performance culture – at school or a results-driven workplace. As such I am very competitive and at times can perhaps be elitest and see failure as weakness.*



## Success, Failure & Grace

**“Grace means there is nothing we can do to make God love us more...  
... And grace means there is nothing we can do to make God love us less...  
Grace means that God already loves us as much as an infinite God can possibly love.”**

Philip Yancey, What's So Amazing About Grace?



## Reflection – Just as I am

Just as I am - without one plea,  
But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,  
-O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am - and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
-O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am - though toss'd about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without,  
-O Lamb of God, I come!