

## REFRAMING FAILURE | Participant Guide

### Video Prework

In [this 10-minute video](#), Adam Savage of *Mythbusters* fame and film prop maker talks about the power of collecting failures. Link: <https://youtu.be/jHwM-nnG-vI>

### Scriptural Foothold

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

Matthew 13:1-9 NRSV

### Food for Thought

Failure is not an option; it is mandatory. [One study](#) found that only 68% of new churches remained in their fourth year. The question is not whether we will fail but what we do with failures. If we choose, failure can be a classroom rather than defeat. When fear becomes something to learn from, we're less afraid and less likely to avoid the risks we need to take.

### For Reflection *(please write down your answers)*

1. What does it mean to you to “hang up failures” for others to see? If you have a failure story you'd like to share; please do so here:
2. What about your church planting project that might fall among thorns or rocks? Describe in as much detail:
3. When it comes to this church plant, what are you most afraid of?
4. How does it feel to have named your fear?
5. What do you need help with, and who will you ask for help from?

### Taking Action *(please fill out during our session together)*

In support of cultivating a new faith community:

**For me:** I commit to \_\_\_\_\_, starting \_\_\_\_\_, and I will ask \_\_\_\_\_ to be my accountability partner.

**For my team:** I will teach my team to reframe failure on \_\_\_\_\_.

### Additional Resources

Friedman, Edwin H., *A Failure of Nerve*. New York: Church Publishing, 1999.

