



# The VINES Uniting Church

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THE GRAPEVINE 13/2/2022

## AVAILABILITY: WK 2

### FAILURE & FORGIVENESS JOHN 3:12 – 19

History, life and relationships are full of success and failure. Both impact our lives greatly. Success and Failure can occur on a world scale and an individual scale. For example

**Q. If someone gives you 5 compliments and one slight criticism... or feedback, which do you remember most?**

Robert Wicks suggests that

**“Having a sense of perspective regarding failure & forgiveness – that might well be the most critical” aspect to learn as Christians. p 16**

Today we look at Winston Churchill, Queen Elizabeth II, Charles and Camilla to explore the implications of failure and forgiveness. These examples will then be balanced by the “perspective” of faith. How do the words below shape the way we look at failure and forgiveness?

#### JOHN 3:16-17 NRSV

***<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”***

In what ways does God’s love through Jesus make a difference to our lives, meaning the negative comment and memory of failure is changed by our foundational beliefs and trust.

**Q. What are some ways you could review your own failures in more helpful, personally enlightening ways?**

**P 21.**

*Rev DJ Prior*

❖ **OUR VISION:**

*To be a vibrant, growing community of Faith.*

❖ **OUR MISSION:**

*To reach out and reflect God's Love –  
connecting others to Christ.*

The below poem is subtle, at first look it seems to be saying that failure locks us into despair and hurt, but when you read carefully it is ironic. As it emphasises the negative (how we often think) to reinforce the truth that regardless how badly we fail, we have equal access to the beauty and joys of the world. So what does that mean?

**The Fact of Forgiveness**

*It is a given you have failed.  
It goes without saying, you were hurt  
and so, you hurt some others.  
Of course, you alone could have saved someone  
or something: you did not.*

*The midnight court of the sleepless mind  
has reached its verdict: Life Sentence.  
Life will be long and hard, but also mysterious  
in how you are condemned to live  
by beauty all the same.*

*Through the bars of your cell, you must watch  
the moon grow full and generous.  
A tune made for others will arrive as if for you.  
The world can't keep its treasures from you—  
no matter how little you deserve,  
you have it all:*

*Moon, Sun, Sleep, Waking, Water, Air—  
a bird dancing away out of sight  
leaving the print of its flight  
and a filament of song  
for you.*

*Kim Stafford*

“The Fact of Forgiveness” by Kim Stafford in SINGER COME FROM AFAR (Pasadena: Red Hen Press, 2021), p. 103

**FOR CLARIFICATION SHOULD THERE BE A COVID CASE:** A close contact is any person who has met face to face for over 15 minutes without wearing a mask or in the same room without a mask for over 15 minutes.

### MISSION AND OUTREACH

We are starting BBQs at Happy Valley Foodland  
on  
Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.  
If you could help by volunteering to assist with  
the BBQ please see Leon or contact him on  
0438 292 877.  
Thank you.

**TO HOME GROUP LEADERS:** Can you please  
email Lynn Ellison, Small Groups Coordinator, a  
list of updated names of people who are in your  
group, together with when and where they  
meet, as soon as possible. . This will enable  
Lynn to update the home group information  
for 2022.. Thank You!

### HOME GROUPS

*Please Note that home  
groups indoors in homes  
are limited to 10.*

*If your numbers exceed  
10 you can book the  
Sunday School room at  
the Church for your  
meetings, or hold your  
meetings outside if  
possible.*

### **FOOD PARCEL MINISTRY**

Where does the time go? We are already in  
February!

We have continued this Ministry through  
Christmas and the New Year as well as  
maintaining the Grow Free Cart.

Thank you for your continued support for this  
ministry.

This week we need the following items:

Cereal,  
Tea/Coffee  
Spreads/Jam  
Tinned Vegetables  
Tinned Fruit  
Toiletries.

Again, we thank you and may God bless you  
Leon and the Pastoral Team

*Where there is love*

*there is joy*

*Where there is joy*

*there is hope*

*Where there is hope*

*there is peace*

*And where there is peace,*

*there is Jesus.*

## Next week:

### **AVAILABILITY SERIES** [based on the book from R.J.WICKS]

Feb 20 Ep 7 WK 3 **SELF AWARENESS** 1 COR 2:10 - 16

### **LIVE STREAMED WORSHIP SERVICES**

Each Sunday our worship services at the Vines can be accessed live at 9:30am via our YouTube channel. Please use the following link to access our services,

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=the+vines+uniting+church](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=the+vines+uniting+church)

After the livestream, each service will remain on our YouTube channel for watching later. They can be accessed using the same link.

#### Remember OUR key MESSAGE:

*Connect with others and CHOOSE LIFE*

*'Cos to Grow stronger through COVID*

*We have to pass on God's love.*



#### Contacts at the VINES Uniting Church

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**Please send Newsletter articles to Colleen Farmer**

by 12 noon Wednesday

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