Pastor Tim Bittle
"I've Fallen and Can't Get Up"

**USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group’s goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

*In our journey of faith, sometimes we feel like we're not where we should be. It's also easy to fall behind or fall back on old habits. The Good News is the truth that God is just as gracious and compassionate as the day we first encountered him; you can get back up!*  

*Proverbs 24.16, HCSB*

*Though a righteous (person) falls seven times, (they) will GET UP, but the wicked will stumble into ruin.*

*It's easy to identify your life with what you are doing, instead of who you are, and who you were made to be.*
[Romans 3.21-25, NLT]

But now God has shown us a way to be (righteous) without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made (righteous) by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who Believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty from our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made (righteous) when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood.

[Romans 3.21-22, NLT]

But now God has shown us a way to be (righteous) without keeping the requirements of the law. We are made (righteous) by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

[Romans 8.11, NLT]

The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you...

Your faith is not based in you; it is based on the One who gave His life for you. Our righteousness is found in Jesus Christ and Him alone!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Are there any parts of your job or personal responsibilities that you just do not enjoy, even though you love what you do? What makes those things difficult or burdensome for you?
2. Why do you think that some godly people fall into old lifestyles or make bad choices, despite knowing God's Word or being in life-giving community?
3. When have you seen someone or experienced yourself missing out on opportunities because of getting hung up on one fault or detail? What did it take to get back on track or to move forward?

4. How does undeserved kindness change hearts and situations that seem unyielding or impossible? When was a time that you've seen that? How does this relate to the unconditional love of God in His Son Jesus?

5. What are some things in your life that Christ has raised back up from the dead? (This could be something you felt disqualified from or a dream that you had let go of.)