Introduction: *Engage your group members with an article.*

Enlist a volunteer to read the following article aloud to the group:

“Second-Chance Champions”

The Senior PGA Tour, often called the “Second-Chance Tour,” has given many long-time teaching pros a new golfing career after age 50. Sportswriter Jack Cavanaugh says, “In no other sport does an athlete who never made it to the world-class level in his prime get a second chance in middle age to prove himself and amass riches that he could only dream about in his 20s, 30s, or 40s.”

Are you looking for a second chance? There’s a widespread idea that if you once miss “God’s best” you can never again render gold-medal service to Him. But in Hebrews 11, faith’s “hall of fame,” we read of several who failed yet came back strong for the Lord.

Abraham, often willful and impatient in waiting for the son God had promised, demonstrated amazing faith in offering up Isaac (vv. 17-19). Jacob, the schemer who stole his brother’s birthright and blessing, became a man of faith who blessed his children and worshiped God (v. 21). Moses spent 40 years in Midian before leading God’s people out of Egypt (vv. 24-28).

Our previous mistakes do not necessarily exclude us from serving God. His best for us is that we turn away from our sin, learn from our failures, and begin anew to follow Christ. That’s the way to be a second-chance champion.

*Our Savior does not cast us off*  
*Because we fail or turn aside;*  
*He will forgive when we repent,*  
*Then in His love we will abide.* —D. De Haan

Make the following statement: *Champions of faith are people who have learned from their failures.* Then allow 2-3 people from the group share their insights.

Point 1: *Help your group members grasp the main thrust of the session using “Think-Pair-Share.”*

All of us display fear at times and fail to trust the Lord. Read the following statement to the group:

“The remarkable thing about fearing God is that when you fear God you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God you fear everything else.”

*Think-Pair-Share:* Instruct your group members to contemplate the statement. Then ask, “Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?” Say, “Think for 30 seconds about this question. Now I want you to discuss this in pairs with a person on your left or your right who is not your spouse.” (Pause for 60 seconds.) Call on 3-4 pairs to share one idea.

[Source: Oswald Chambers, *The Highest Good with the Pilgrim’s Song Book and Thy Great Redemption* (Grand Rapids, MI: Discovery House), 537.]

Point 2: *Help your group members understand a key term in the lesson.*

Play the clip “Thou Art God” (3 minutes, 3 seconds) from the movie *The Ten Commandments*. It can be found at [http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/courageous/job-is-yours](http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/courageous/job-is-yours).

After the clip is played, ask your group members to comment on the fact that God had delivered His people forty years earlier by parting the Red Sea so they could cross in safety. Then He destroyed the Egyptian army by drowning them in that same sea. In Joshua 3, He will again part a body of water, the Jordan River, and deliver His people safely. Use the following question to generate discussion: “How should God’s past working in the lives of His people encourage us for today?”

Point 3: *Help your group understand the main point.*

Ask your students if they have ever visited a museum or memorial such as the Pearl Harbor memorial, WWII memorial, Ground Zero, etc. Then raise the following questions: “Why is it important that we visit such places? What can we learn about the past? How does that affect the present?” Allow 2-3 group members to give their opinions.
Conclusion: Challenge group members to live the session.

This session focused on the truth that God goes before His people with power to give us courage to follow Him wherever He leads. Instruct group members to look at 2 Timothy 1:7 and encourage them to meditate on it this week.

Teaching Tip of the Week

One of the easiest ways to help students learn has to do with the classroom layout. Most classrooms are set up for lecture. There is a podium up front and the chairs are placed in straight rows. Try setting up in a U shape. This is an all-purpose setup that allows flexibility in teaching. You can lecture, break into groups, have group members participate in face-to-face conversations, distribute handouts, and use visual media easily from this sort of arrangement. Don’t be afraid to experiment. You and your group members may be surprised at the results.