

unperfect

REFLECTION & STUDY GUIDE



THE WATER'S EDGE CHURCH
FEBRUARY 2022
WEOMAHA.COM/UNPERFECT

Week 1

R₁ E₁ A₁ D₂

FEBRUARY 1
MATTHEW 1

FEBRUARY 2
MATTHEW 2

FEBRUARY 3
MATTHEW 3

FEBRUARY 4
MATTHEW 4

FEBRUARY 5
MATTHEW 5

FEBRUARY 6
MATTHEW 6

make it stick

practical applications for this week's sermon and readings

Jesus invited unperfect people to follow him and they did the unexpected. In what ways are you following Jesus right now? How could you commit to following Jesus more closely this week?

the big idea

Many of us don't feel good enough. But Jesus didn't choose perfect people to be his disciples. He invited the unexpected, the sinners, and the unperfect to follow Him. Despite Matthew's past, Jesus had big plans for his future. Jesus offers the same invitation to all of us, "Follow me."

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P₃ R₁ A₁ Y₄

Dear God,

I know I am not perfect.
I have made mistakes.
I have taken the wrong paths.
I have failed to follow you.

Yet, you still invite me to join you
in doing amazing things.

Help me accept forgiveness so I
can move forward.
Remind me that my past doesn't
determine my future.
Teach me that I am capable of
great things with you.

Thank you for calling me despite
my imperfections.
Show me what unexpected
opportunities you have for me.

A₁ M₃ E₁ N₁

pause

In the space below, pause and reflect on what you read this week. What stood out? How did God speak to you through the readings?

Week 1 Reflections

Use the questions below to further reflect on this week's sermon and grow in your faith.

O, N, E,

Describe a time God used someone or something unexpected to have a positive impact on your life.

T, W, O,

Describe a time God used you to do something impactful that you didn't expect.

T, H, R, E, E,

Have you ever felt like you weren't good enough (at home, work, school, in a relationship)? What made you feel not good enough?

F, O, U, R,

The Pharisees thought Matthew and his friends did not deserve to have dinner with Jesus (Mt. 9:10-11). Have you ever felt undeserving of Jesus' love and grace? Why?

F, I, V, E,

Jesus says, "Healthy people don't need a doctor – sick people do" (Mt. 9:12). How have you experienced Jesus' healing - physically, emotionally, spiritually, or relationally?

S, I, X,

Despite Matthew's past, Jesus had big plans for his future. Is there anything in your past preventing you from fully following Jesus? How can we keep our past from determining our future?

S, E, V, E, N,

Jesus invites Matthew to a new life by saying, "Follow me" (Mt. 9:9). What does it look like for you to follow Jesus?

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him.

Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?"

When Jesus heard this, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do." Then he added, "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.' For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."

- Matthew 9:9-13 (NLT)

Week 2

R₁ E₁ A₁ D₂

FEBRUARY 7
MATTHEW 7

FEBRUARY 11
MATTHEW 11

FEBRUARY 8
MATTHEW 8

FEBRUARY 12
MATTHEW 12

FEBRUARY 9
MATTHEW 9

FEBRUARY 13
MATTHEW 13

FEBRUARY 10
MATTHEW 10

make it stick

practical applications for this week's sermon and readings

Think about your prayers, finances, energy, experiences, leadership, time, etc. What is it that you feel unqualified for that God may be leading you to do?

the big idea

We may feel unqualified. The disciples did too. But they gave what they had to Jesus, he blessed their work and their gift, and something amazing happened. The same happens today when we give Jesus our best.

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P₃ R₁ A₁ Y₄

Dear God,

At times I feel
unqualified.

Unqualified to pray.
Unqualified to serve.
Unqualified to give.
Unqualified to invite.
Unqualified to lead.
Unqualified to risk.

Help me. Lead me.
Give me the courage
to give what I have to
you and trust you for
the blessing,
multiplication, and
results.

I'm not always
qualified, but you are.
Let's do great things
together.

A₁ M₃ E₁ N₁

pause

In the space below, pause and reflect on what you read this week. What stood out? How did God speak to you through the readings?

Week 2 Reflections

Use the questions below to further reflect on this week's sermon and grow in your faith.

O, N, E,

When is a time you felt unqualified to do something? What was your response?

T, W, O,

What makes you feel unqualified?

T, H, R, E, E,

When is a time you were able to do something you didn't think you could do? What was that experience like for you?

F, O, U, R,

The disciples said: "But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish!" They were telling Jesus they were not qualified to feed 5,000 people. Have you ever told Jesus you are not qualified?

F, I, V, E,

The disciples wanted to send the people away and have them find their own food. Jesus responded: "That isn't necessary—you feed them." How do you think this response made the disciples feel? Have you ever felt this way?

S, I, X,

Jesus blessed the bread and fish and then gave the food to the disciples to give to the people. There was more than enough for everybody. Have you ever given something to God and experienced blessing and multiplication? What was that like for you?

S, E, V, E, N,

For something to be blessed by God, it has to be given to God. Why do we withhold our various resources from God?

As soon as Jesus heard the news, he left in a boat to a remote area to be alone. But the crowds heard where he was headed and followed on foot from many towns. Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

That evening the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves."

But Jesus said, "That isn't necessary—you feed them."

"But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish!" they answered.

"Bring them here," he said. Then he told the people to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he gave the bread to the disciples, who distributed it to the people. They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers. About 5,000 men were fed that day, in addition to all the women and children!

- Matthew 14:13-21 (NLT)

Week 3

R₁ E₁ A₁ D₂

FEBRUARY 14
MATTHEW 14

FEBRUARY 15
MATTHEW 15

FEBRUARY 16
MATTHEW 16

FEBRUARY 17
MATTHEW 17

FEBRUARY 18
MATTHEW 18

FEBRUARY 19
MATTHEW 19

FEBRUARY 20
MATTHEW 20

make it stick

practical applications for this week's sermon and readings

How can you approach your mishaps and missteps with grace and understanding? How can you use them to grow in your relationship with Christ rather than use them as an excuse to pull away from him?

the big idea

Despite our best intentions, sometimes we mess up. Just like the disciples, we make promises and then fall short in keeping them. Jesus knew the disciples would falter. He knew they would mess up and...he loved them anyway. Just like He loves us anyway. God's grace isn't based on our ability to keep our promises to Him. It's not based on our abilities to be perfect. It's based entirely on His love for us.

unperfect

P₃ R₁ A₁ Y₄

Dear God,

Let me be better.
Better than the voice that
reminds me of my
shortcomings.
Better than the voice that
tells me to give up.
Let me be better than the
“what ifs” that try to poke
holes in my faith.
Better than I was
yesterday and better than
I am today.

Let me be better.
Better at seeing who it is
you see in me.
Better at loving who it is
you love.
Better at hearing what it
is you speak.
Better at letting go of my
missteps and mistakes.
And better at clinging to
you.

A₁ M₃ E₁ N₁

pause

In the space below, pause and reflect on what you read this week. What stood out? How did God speak to you through the readings?

Week 3 Reflections

Use the questions below to further reflect on this week's sermon and grow in your faith.

O, N, E,

Have you ever promised something but were unable to deliver on that promise? Share about that time.

T, W, O,

How do you feel when you underdeliver on something you said you would do? How did the other parties involved react to your shortcoming?

T, H, R, E, E,

How does underdelivering on your promises affect your relationships? With family? With friends? With co-workers? With God?

F, O, U, R,

During the Passover meal, Jesus reframed the way the disciples looked at things. With the bread and wine, he showed them that it was no longer solely about what God had done in Egypt but the promise God was making to everyone through Christ. A promise given to all despite what they had done or will do. How can reframing your perspective on God's promise change the way you handle your shortcomings?

F, I, V, E,

In the garden, Jesus gives the disciples multiple opportunities to stay awake. He doesn't just give up on them. He gives them another chance. What does this tell you about how Jesus is with his followers?

S, I, X,

Jesus tells Peter - "For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!" Has there been a time you found yourself giving in to temptation? Why was it so hard to resist that temptation? How could you have handled the situation differently?

S, E, V, E, N,

Jesus knows our shortcomings, yet continues to pursue us. This pursuit is not based on our perfection. Knowing this, how can you change the way you react when you mess up? How can you give yourself the same grace that Jesus offers all of us?

Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, "Sit here while I go over there to pray." He took Peter and Zebedee's two sons, James and John, and he became anguished and distressed. He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, "Couldn't you watch with me even one hour? Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!"

- Matthew 26:36-41 (NLT)

Week 4

R₁ E₁ A₁ D₂

FEBRUARY 21
MATTHEW 21

FEBRUARY 25
MATTHEW 25

FEBRUARY 22
MATTHEW 22

FEBRUARY 26
MATTHEW 26

FEBRUARY 23
MATTHEW 23

FEBRUARY 27
MATTHEW 27

FEBRUARY 24
MATTHEW 24

FEBRUARY 28
MATTHEW 28

make it stick

practical applications for this week's sermon and readings

Share your faith this week. Introduce somebody to Jesus. Tell them how God is working in your life. Or, share with another follower of Jesus how God is helping you overcome your doubts and failures. Or, do both!

the big idea

Some of the disciples saw Jesus and doubted him. The same disciples who failed before and would fail again. But, Jesus told the disciples to go and share their faith despite any doubts and failures they might have. He asks us, people with doubts and failures, to do the same.

unperfect

P₃ R₁ A₁ Y₄

Dear God,

Sometimes I have doubts.
Fill me with faith.
Don't let my doubts stop me or
even slow me down.

I have failed others and myself.
Let me learn from the past and
not linger in the past.
Help my lessons learned be part
of my story and be a blessing to
others.

I don't always feel qualified,
but you are with me.
Lead me to share my faith with
others.
Help me lead people to a
deeper relationship with you.

A, M, E, N,

pause

In the space below, pause and reflect on what you read this week. What stood out? How did God speak to you through the readings?

Week 4 Reflections

Use the questions below to further reflect on this week's sermon and grow in your faith.

O, N, E,

Share a funny or not-so-funny time you failed at something. What was it like?

T, W, O,

Do you ever doubt God? Either God's existence or God's ability or willingness to keep His promises. If so, what is this like for you?

T, H, R, E, E,

Is it difficult for you to overcome your failures or do you tend to dwell on them? How has failing to get past your past prevented you from living better?

F, O, U, R,

Jesus told the disciples to go and share their faith despite their doubts and failures. What does this tell you about Jesus? What does this tell you about you?

F, I, V, E,

Jesus asks the disciples to introduce people to Christianity (baptize) and help people grow in their faith (teach). Which is more natural for you: introducing others to Christ or helping people grow?

S, I, X,

What is intimidating about Jesus' command to share your faith with others?

S, E, V, E, N,

Jesus concludes: "And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Does Jesus promising His presence change your willingness to share your faith? Does Jesus promising His consistent presence change the way you live?

Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted!

Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

- Matthew 28:16-20 (NLT)



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