



Sermon-based reflections connect the week to the weekend!

Dig deeper into the talk each week, in a small group or independently. Challenge yourself to see how the message actually makes sense and applies to your everyday life.

Message Info: Guide-rails - We're Not Perfect, But We're Growing, 2/11/24 - We've all experienced times or circumstances where we don't feel good enough. Feeling like a failure can even be something we battle daily. When viewed through the wrong lens, it's easy to want to just give up. But if we grasp that perfection is not realistic and seek God's strength in our weakness, we find hope that sustains for the journey ahead. (*Passages: Mark 9:14-27, Philippians 3:12, Romans 3:22-24, Deuteronomy 28:13*)

Discussion Questions: Take your time and dig into these questions.

How do you feel when your efforts fall flat? Do you struggle to be motivated at times? Or question your capability? Do you ever hold others to unfair standards?

Read Mark 9:14-27. What stands out to you about this passage? Why?

The father's reply "I do believe; help my unbelief," tells us he recognizes his own shortcomings. But he didn't stop there. His reply says to Jesus, *I know I need you; help me grow*. His faith and submission to Jesus enabled him and his family to have victory, that his own efforts could never achieve. What does this mean for us? How will submitting to Jesus change our lives?

It's ok to not have it all together. Even the Apostle Paul wrote "I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing," Romans 7:19. We have to humbly acknowledge our limitations and bring them to God. That's how we grow.

Here are some keys to remain focused on growth:

1. Realize that good enough isn't about *what I can do for me*. The focus should be what God can do in and through us (2 Corinthians 11:30)
2. Don't pretend to be perfect; we have to get real with God in order for Him to work in us (2 Corinthians 12:9)
3. Show grace to others and to ourselves (Romans 15:1)
4. Remember where you started; looking back on our progress helps us remember growth is a process (Matthews 7:3-5, 1 Corinthians 6:11)
5. Be willing to follow Him (Matthew 11:28-30)

Weekly Challenge: Invite someone to church next Sunday.