



Finish: Perfect | December 27, 2017

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

Did you know that 92% of New Year's resolutions fail? Why? Perfectionism.

Key Verses

Philippians 3:12-14 (MSG)

I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.

Discussion

The start of the New Year brings with it new hopes, new dreams, new goals, and new resolutions. We see the beginning of another year as a clean slate, rife with possibilities. When the slate begins to become marked and messy, we have a tendency to stop moving towards our goals and resolutions all together.

1. Do you usually make a New Year's resolution? If so, why? If not, why not?
2. Can you think of a New Year's resolution that you followed through on?

The idea of a fresh start and new possibilities is absolutely invigorating. It fills us with a sense of purpose and something to work towards. Many of us fail not in starting, but rather in finishing. A key component to this failure is the standard with which many of us hold ourselves—perfection.

3. Are you a person that has to do something perfectly? If so, why do you think this is?
4. What are some ways you can give yourself the grace to fail? Or at least not be perfect?

Our idea of achieving perfection isn't isolated to our goals and resolutions. This idea of needing to be perfect spills over into our spiritual lives. We often believe we must be the perfect Christian or have the perfect understanding of God. Philippians 3:12-14 gives us a picture of inviting Jesus into our goals and accomplishment so we keep moving forward rather than giving up when we aren't perfect.

5. What are some ways that needing to be perfect affects your faith life?
6. Do you think God expects us to be perfect?

What's Next?

As you start your new year, let go of perfection and change the way you view your goals. See your goals as a process and not something that has to be done perfectly. Make it a point to grow closer to God, knowing that He embraces you in your imperfections. As you set goals, be sure to include one that involves growing closer to God.