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**Wanted: Fire-Builders—
Perfection Not Required for This Job**



*How do we break through our imperfections
to pursue God's purpose for our kids?*

 **Prayer to Begin**

Jesus, I admit that I am not a perfect parent.



Thought for Reflection

All of us are imperfect parents. Even though we are inadequate in ourselves, God has called us to be parents. It is a holy calling!



Quick Response

Briefly jot down your insights, thoughts and emotions after reading this chapter of the book.



Verse to Memorize

Do not put out the Spirit's fire. (1 Thessalonians 5:19)

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My Daily Parenting Prayers

Pray one of these prayers each day and then write any other prayers or thoughts that the Lord brings to your mind.

Sunday

Lord, show me my imperfections. Allow me to be honest as I face my personal and parenting flaws.

Monday

Jesus, when my parenting imperfections tend to paralyze me, remove the darkness and confusion.

Tuesday

Holy Spirit, release me from the things I could have done differently. Hound of Heaven, woo my children back to You.

Wednesday

Father, make up for the times when my children needed more from me than I gave them. Let me see that with You, it is never too late.

Thursday

Counselor, protect me from comparing myself to others. Guide me to pursue my self-worth not in my kids, but rather in You Who offers real security.

Friday

Jesus, to You I give my guilt over wrong parenting decisions I have made. I accept Your forgiveness now. Cover those mistakes with Your love.

Saturday

Father, You have called me to be a parent. Ignite a fire in me for You and kindle a passion for Christ in my kids.

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Taking Action

Think about which “black hole” you tend to fall into. Ask God to show you why and how you have fallen into that hole. Ask Him to show you how to get out. Write down what you discover.



Thought for Reflection

God and His love for you prevail over your imperfections.



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Fresh Ideas

Read the “Fresh Ideas” and use one of them to help you work through your imperfections so you can pursue God’s purpose for your parenting. Place a ✓ by the one you choose and then record your thoughts on how you want to use it.

- Viewing yourself positively, not negatively, provides one of the fastest ways to create fresh ideas about your parenting. That positive view of yourself will begin to emerge after you admit your imperfections. Write down your parenting imperfections.
- After deciding which black hole you fall into most often, ask God to show you a specific plan to get out and stay out. Write out the plan.
- In a phrase that will fit on a T-shirt, write out your parenting purpose, then have it painted onto a T-shirt or some other surface. Display your purpose some place where you will see it regularly.
- Share with your spouse what you have written above. Pray for each other about the parenting black holes you fall into and about your parenting purpose. Appropriately communicate the same to your children.



Further Reading

Brent Curtis and John Eldredge, *The Sacred Romance* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997). This book will allow you to see your imperfections against the story of God’s love for you. It will help you see how you fit into God’s story in spite of your flaws and failures.

Tim Kimmel, *Grace-Based Parenting* (Nashville: W Publishing Group, 2004). This book offers grace and truth, love and purpose, as well as hope and freedom for your parenting adventure.

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My Personal and Parenting Reflections

Use this space to record your insights, thoughts, emotions, hopes and dreams for yourself, your family and for each of your children.

For Myself:

For Our Family:

For My Children: