



PERFECT

PREPARE 



BEFORE YOU BEGIN

TALK TOGETHER

THINK ABOUT YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY FOR A MINUTE.

Do any of them seem perfect? Is there someone who gets perfect grades or can play a sport perfectly? Who do you know who can create

picture-perfect art or can play music without missing a note?

Have you ever tried to be perfect?

When we hear the word perfect we think of something that doesn't have flaws or someone who can do something without making mistakes. We may know people who are really good at doing something, but no one except God is absolutely perfect.

Did you know that because God is perfectly holy He requires us to be perfect?


When God created the first man and woman, they were perfect. But it didn't stay that way. They chose to disobey God, and sin entered the world. Sin is anything that we think, say or do that disobeys God. Because of sin, we can never be perfect.



 **TALK TOGETHER**
Family conversations with God's Word.

 **MORE TO EXPLORE**
Discover how this conversation fits into God's Big Story.

 **THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET**
Post it on the fridge. Use it all week.

 **COLORING PAGE**
Keep little hands busy before, during and after your family conversation.



Let's read what Jesus told His disciples about this in the Sermon on the Mount. **Can you help me find Matthew, chapter 5, verse 48? The book of Matthew is in the New Testament.**

That might be hard to hear, but God understands you and knows you better than you know yourself. God knows you make mistakes, and He knows you sin. So what did Jesus mean when He said we should be perfect?

***"YOU THEREFORE
MUST BE PERFECT,
AS YOUR HEAVENLY
FATHER IS PERFECT."***

(MATTHEW 4:18-20)

When Jesus said we must be perfect, He was talking about growing in our faith and making God's character a part of our everyday life.

Think about it this way. When you were first born could you walk, talk or feed yourself? Of course not! You watched and learned from the people around you. You were and are still growing!

When we start following Jesus, we are like spiritual babies. God wants us to grow up in our faith and in our relationship with Jesus. We learn Who He is and what He is like. We learn how to talk with Him and how to be like Him. Just like we grow up in our bodies, we should also grow up in our relationship with God.

As we grow up in our faith, we become more like Him. Sin still affects everything we think, say and do. But don't worry. Jesus came to Earth to die for us. And when He rose from the grave, He defeated sin! God requires perfection, and we can be perfect in God's eyes because of Jesus!



GOD'S BIG STORY



EVERYTHING
GOD CREATED
WAS GOOD.



ADAM & EVE SINNED,
AND SIN PASSED TO
ALL PEOPLE, EVEN
YOU AND ME.



THOUGH ALL OF
US ARE SINNERS,
CHRIST DIED
FOR US.



JESUS WILL
COME AGAIN.

FIND IT IN THE BIBLE: MATTHEW

This week's story comes from the book of Matthew. Matthew is the first of four books known as the Gospels. The author of this book is likely Matthew, the tax collector who became a follower of Jesus. The book of Matthew gives readers a perspective on the life of Jesus and confirms Him as the Messiah.

OT-NT CONNECTION

From the beginning of God's relationship with humans, He has commanded people to be perfect and without sin.

- In Genesis 17:1, God tells Abraham to walk before Him and be blameless.
- In Leviticus 19:2, God tells Moses to tell the people to be holy because God is holy.
- In Deuteronomy 18:9-14, God tells the Israelites to keep themselves from being influenced by other nations and to be blameless before Him.

IS PERFECTIONISM A SIN?

When we try to live so that others see how perfect we are, we are missing the mark of how God wants us to live. Perfectionism encourages others to look at us. Trying to be more like God points the people around us to God and what He is doing in our lives. If our focus is ourselves, that is pride; and pride is a sin. If our focus is growing in our relationship with God, that is faith.

READ



Read Matthew 5:43-48. Notice what Jesus says about how we should treat our enemies. What do those verses tell us about God's perfect love? If we love people who hate us, how does that make us more like God?

IF I CAN NEVER BE PERFECT LIKE GOD, WHY TRY?

The short answer is because that is what Jesus told us. The longer answer is that the more time we spend with God, the more we will want to become more like God. Your faith is not something you do for God, it is a relationship with Him. The more we learn about God and Who He is, the more our lives will reflect His perfect character.

JOURNAL



Ephesians 5:1 says we should be imitators of God, and 2 Corinthians 7:1 says we should cleanse ourselves from anything that keeps us from being holy. What is one thing that is keeping you from growing up in your faith? Is it a sin or behavior or habit? Write a short prayer asking God to help you change that to be an imitator of Him more every day.

★ THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET

WEEK OF OCTOBER 15, 2023

♥ MEMORIZE

"YOU THEREFORE MUST BE PERFECT, AS YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS PERFECT."

(MATTHEW 5:48)

Q: WHAT DOES GOD REQUIRE?

A: PERFECTION.

SHARE

Tell your child about a way God is working in your life and helping you to reflect His perfect character more perfectly.

WATCH



Help your child learn their verse by watching this week's Memory Melody video!

PRAY

DEAR GOD, THANK YOU FOR BEING PERFECT AND PERFECTLY HOLY. YOU ARE OUR STANDARD OF HOLINESS. FORGIVE US FOR FALLING SHORT. PLEASE HELP US TO BECOME MORE AND MORE LIKE YOU. AMEN

FIND

This week's verse is in the book of Matthew. Help your child find the book of Matthew. Is this book in the Old or New Testament? How many chapters are there?

WATCH IT GROW

Plant or buy a new plant for your home. (Alternatively, watch a time-lapse video of a plant growing.) Talk about how plants start as seeds and grow into mature plants. What do plants need to grow and be healthy? What do we need to grow into the mature believer God requires us to be?

MISSING THE MARK

Draw a bull's-eye on a piece of paper and lay it on the floor. (Alternately use chalk to draw a bull's-eye on the sidewalk.) Using a small rock, a ball or a wadded up piece of paper, take turns trying to hit the middle of the bull's-eye. Talk about how it would be impossible to hit the center of the target every time. Sin is when we don't hit the mark of God's perfection. We can do it some of the time, but not all of the time.

SING



Listen to this playlist throughout the series for being perfect and perfectly holy!

SCAN HERE TO LISTEN WHEREVER YOU ARE!

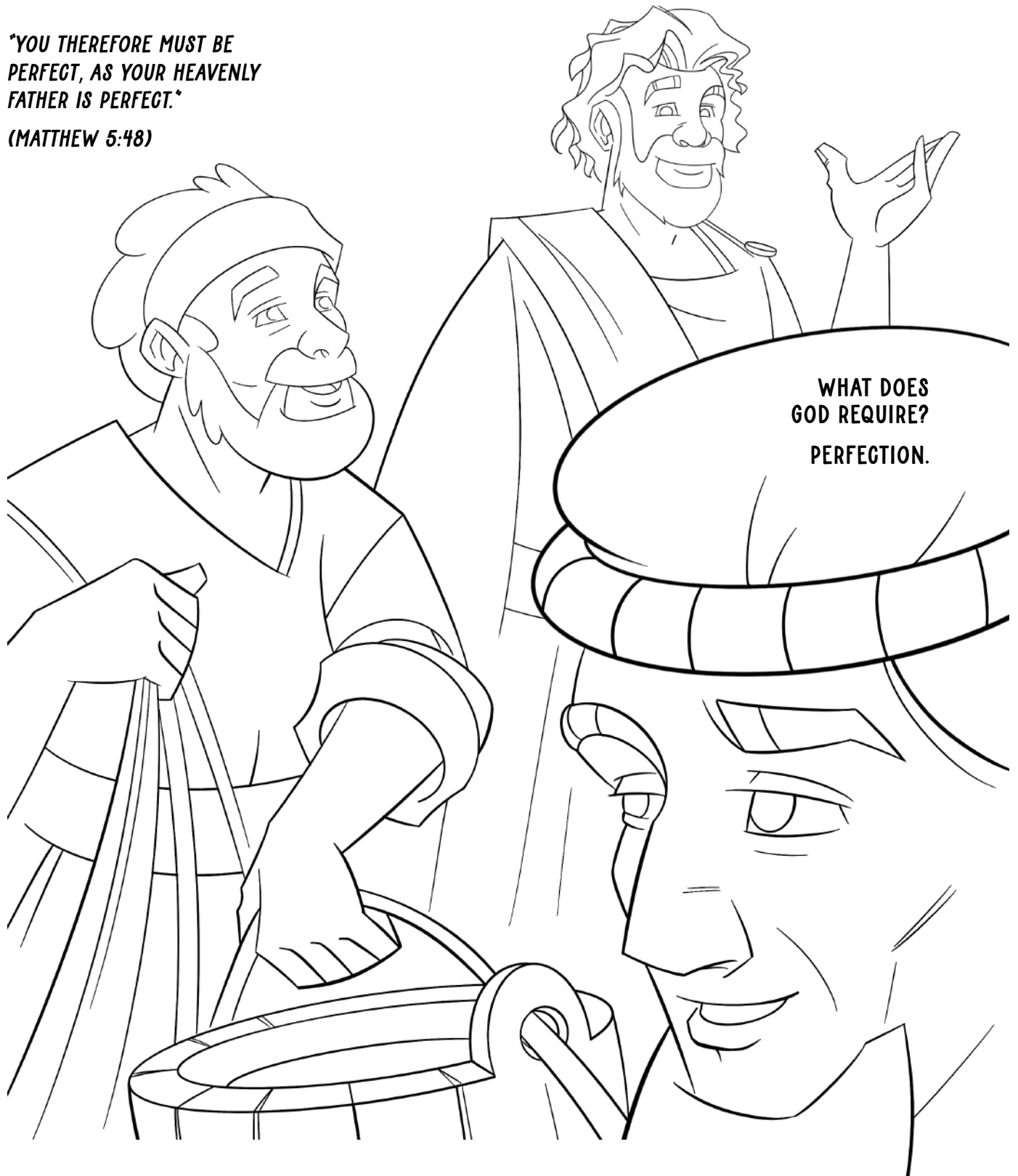
FOLLOW THE LEADER

Play a game of Follow the Leader, taking turns being the leader. Then ask your family what it would look like to choose to imitate Jesus' perfect example. What attitudes or actions would be different? How would they love people more perfectly?



***"YOU THEREFORE MUST BE
PERFECT, AS YOUR HEAVENLY
FATHER IS PERFECT."***

(MATTHEW 5:48)



NAME: _____