



*"My grace is sufficient for you..." 2 Corinthians 12:9 (ESV)*

**Big Idea:** God doesn't see us through the lens of our past mistakes, but instead through the lens of His grace.

*If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9 (NLT)*

*He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west. Psalm 103:12*

*Once again you will have compassion on us. You will trample our sins under your feet and throw them into the depths of the ocean! Micah 7:19 (NLT)*

**3 PRAYERS:** "God, help me to..."

**Prayer #1.** Surrender the \_\_\_\_\_ of my past.

See Exodus 4:10-12 (NLT)

**Prayer #2.** Move \_\_\_\_\_ with hope.

*Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you. Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path. Proverbs 4:25-26 (NLT)*

*"But forget all that - it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?" Isaiah 43:18-19a (NLT)*

*This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)*

*Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me - everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:8-9 (NLT)*

**Prayer #3.** Focus on the \_\_\_\_\_ you have for me.

*Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. Philippians 3:13b-14 (NLT)*

*Then Esau ran to meet him and embraced him, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him. And they both wept. Genesis 33:4 (NLT)*

*"So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him." Luke 15:20 (NLT)*



📍 New Life Christian Center  
November 19, 2023  
Pastor David Larson | Turlock  
Pastor Jeremy Moore | Patterson

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**3 PRAYERS:** "God, help me to..."

**Prayer #1. Surrender the IMPERFECTIONS of my past.**

See Exodus 4:10-12 (NLT)

**Prayer #2. Move FORWARD with hope.**

*Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you. Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path.*  
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**Prayer #3. Focus on the FUTURE you have for me.**

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week 6 | November 19, 2023

*"IF ONLY... I Had A Perfect Past."*

### [CONNECT]

Do you have a perfect past? Did you ever make a really dumb mistake when you were a kid? Think about and discuss one mistake you made growing up that you wish you could "redo"...

### [ENGAGE]

What stood out to you from this weekend's message?

### [GROW]

In the middle of a struggle or challenge, how much comfort would it bring to hear these words from Jesus, "My grace is enough for you..."?

We all have our "If only..." examples of things we wish we could erase from our past. Why do you believe a lot of us can't forgive ourselves...even though Jesus DOES forgive us? (Read Romans 10:9; Psalm 103:12; Micah 7:19)

Discuss the meaning of the BIG IDEA from this weekend... What does it mean to you?

**BIG IDEA** - *God doesn't see us through the lens of our past mistakes, but through the lens of His grace.*

From the message, how can we "surrender the imperfections" of our past? What are some of the dangers of not dropping the heavy "luggage" of our past?

Sometimes we all make excuses of what disqualifies us from pursuing a healthy relationship with God. If you're comfortable sharing, describe some of the things from your past you've used for why you might not be qualified to follow after His plan for your life.

Read Proverbs 4:25-26 and discuss...

The last "prayer" we discussed in the message was, "God, help me to focus on the future You have for me." What would that look like for you to focus on God's future and reward for you instead of dwelling on your past?

### [LEAD (YOURSELF)]

This week:

Stop carrying around the luggage of your past, and begin to walk in the freedom of the forgiveness, restoration, and redemption that's already running towards you. If the baggage from your past isn't so easy to let go of, consider reaching out to our New Life team for guidance and counseling that can begin your journey towards restoration and healing...

