



# Week 2: Imperfect Potential

## FACILITATOR'S NOTE:

**Regarding COVID:** While stress from the COVID-19 pandemic is still high, be sure to check in with group members with what has come to be known as **CPR** (Care, Prayer, Remember):

- **Care** refers to loving and supporting each other, from helping one another with tangible needs, rejoicing in celebrations together, and supporting personal struggles with encouragement and empathy
- **Prayer** refers to bringing our worries and needs before God and depending on him for the answers as we pray for each other, our community, and the world
- **Remember** refers to reflecting on God for who He is, what He has done in our lives, and what He is capable of doing

For more resources on care and prayer, check out the Slack channels.

## Using the Discussion Questions:

- ✓ Start your group discussion with the “Check-in” question to help your members reflect back on their week and follow up on last week’s application challenge.
  - ✓ Review the “Big Idea” to help you gain clarity around the heart of this week’s message.
  - ✓ Read this week’s scripture passages together and guide your group through the “Discuss” questions to initiate meaningful dialogue around key concepts or insights from this week’s message.
  - ✓ Move your group discussion to a deeper level by leading them through questions in “Apply”. Use discernment to customize these application questions to meet the needs & dynamics of your group.
- NOTE:** You do not have to cover all the “Discuss” or “Apply” questions.
- ✓ Connect with God together as a group through this week’s “prayer practice”, which can be in the form of a prayer exercise or some guidance on what to pray for in relation to the message or application.

<b>CHECK-IN</b>	What was one of your greatest insecurities growing up?
<b>BIG IDEA</b>	Isn't it funny how Jesus chose imperfect people, like Peter, as his disciples? Loud, impulsive, immature, boastful – Peter did not initially possess the kind of impressive qualities you would look for in a leader. In fact, these traits would better describe a typical teenager. And yet... Jesus not only saw his potential, he chose to invest his time in such a person. Just as Jesus made a lasting imprint on Peter's life, we as adults and seniors at the bridge, have an incredible opportunity to help shape and mould the impressionable minds of our children, youth, and young adults.

<p><b>DISCUSS</b></p>	<p><b>Read Matthew 4:18–22, Matthew 14:25–31, John 21:15–17</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What in the sermon spoke to you, challenged you, or was a new thought to you?</li> <li>2. Who was a person that impacted you when you were a young person, either negatively or positively?</li> <li>3. How do we keep ourselves from putting others in a box based on their flaws and imperfections?</li> </ol>
<p><b>APPLY</b> How do we respond to God's teaching in meaningful ways? What might God ask of us in mind, spirit, or actions?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How would <i>curiosity</i> help to shift the dynamics of your relationships, especially in your parenting or mentoring?</li> <li>2. What is something you can do to influence or impact a child, teenager, or young adult that you know?</li> </ol>
<p><b>PRAYER PRACTICE</b> (15 minutes)</p>	<p><b>Clenched Hands/Open Hands</b></p> <p>In times of crisis, either full blown or background, words don't often come easily to express what we struggle with, or what we need from God. Sometimes our bodies express ourselves more honestly than our words.</p> <p>This practice involves the use of our hands as a prayer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Taking a few deep breaths, allow for 1 minute of silence to pass in order to prepare yourself to be in God's presence...</li> <li>➤ Now clench your hands into tight fists and hold for 1 minute. During this minute, let your hands say what your heart is heavy with. Imagine what is sinking your heart and weighing down your clenched fist...</li> <li>➤ Now release your fists and open your hands to God. As you lift your hands, imagine also, God's life-giving presence flowing into your hands, replacing what was there before, abundantly filling your openly receiving hands. Take 3 minutes of silence to allow your hands to receive.</li> <li>➤ Close your prayer by placing your hands over your heart, letting what was received sink into your heart.</li> </ul> <p><b>Group Practice:</b></p> <p>As prompted by the Holy Spirit, group members share what they might have received from God during this group practice. <i>What did you receive from God?</i></p>