God Uses Imperfect People

1. **Abraham and Sarah – Gen 17-50 – Liar, Polygamy, Adultery**

   Promised to be Father of many nations. He committed adultery with Hagar at Sarah's insistence, brought about the Arab nations through Ismael, still in conflict today, birthed Issac who was the son of promise, nation of Israel came from them. They didn't wait for God's timing.

2. **Moses, Aaron, Miriam – Exodus and Numbers – Murderer, Idolatry, Anger**

   Thrown in the Nile as an infant, taken into Pharoah's household, lived like a king. Killed an Egyptian, fled to the desert, saw the burning bush, argued with God because he was slow of speech, performed miracles and brought plagues, led Israelities out of Egypt, was given the law, in anger struck a rock, was not allowed to enter into the Promise Land.

   Aaron and Miriam rejected Moses' authority when he was up on the mountain getting the Law and the 10 commandments, melted jewelry and a golden calf came out of it, committed idolatry.

3. **David – 1 & 2 Samuel, 1& 2 Kings … - Adultery, Polygamy, Murder**

   Anointed as Israel's king as a boy, slew Goliath the giant, served King Saul who tried to kill him, wrote many of the Psalms, committed polygamy, lusted after another man's wife, through adultery got her pregnant, had her husband Uriah killed and took Bathsheba as his wife, their first child died, one of his sons tried to grab the Kingdom

4. **Peter – Gospels – denied Christ 3 times**

   Follower of Jesus, very impulsive, walked on water, one of first disciple to declare Jesus as the Christ, denied knowing Jesus 3 times, was reinstated after the resurrection, became leader of the Jewish-Christian church

5. **Saul – Acts & many of the letters to the churches – murderer, persecuted early Christian church**

   Student of the Pharisees, a righteous Jew, persecuted Christians, was there at the stoning of Stephen and approved of this death, pursued Christians to other towns to arrest them, had a dramatic encounter with Jesus, got saved and baptized, became Apostle to the Gentiles, wrote many letters that became most of the New Testament

6. **Samaritan Woman at the Well – John 4 – sexually immoral**

   Had 5 husbands, so she was divorced, was living with a man, was in sexual sin, Jesus revealed He was the Messiah to her, she was one of the first evangelists because she went and told everyone in the town about her encounter with Jesus

7. **Mary and Martha from Bethany – John 11, Luke 7 – sinful, perfectionist**

   Mary was a "sinful woman" who poured perfume on Jesus' feet to anoint Him for burial, she sat at Jesus' feet and became a female disciple (unheard of in the Jewish culture), was at the crucifixion.

   Martha was overly concerned about how to feed the crowd and told Jesus to make Mary help her but Mary had chosen the better thing to do. She was a perfectionist and overachiever.

8. **Mary Magdalene – Gospels – Mark16:9, John – 7 demons cast out of her**

   Jesus had cast 7 demons out of her. Witnessed the crucifixion. The first person to see Jesus after the resurrection. Commissioned to tell disciples about resurrection.

9. **We all have sin in our past**

   Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

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