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A Perfect Mess: Why You Don't Have To Worry About Being Good Enough For God



Synopsis

On those days when French fries litter the floor of your minivan, when you think bad words about other drivers, when your smile hides an anxious heart—“in those moments when you fall short of all you’d hoped to be—“what does God see when He looks at you? In your less-than-lovely moments, God sees a precious daughter in need of His perfect love. In this liberating look at how God adores and transforms imperfect people, Bible teacher Lisa Harper weaves poignant stories of her own personal foibles with a fresh take on selected Psalms to reveal a loving Father who remains your greatest champion even when you don’t feel anywhere close to holy. Join Lisa in discovering what happens when we stop trying to hide our inadequacies and doubts and instead trust God with our anger, frustrations, flaws, and regrets. As you accept God’s loving invitation to exchange your junk for His joy, you’ll find the imperfect pieces of your life shaped into a glorious pattern of divine grace.

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Customer Reviews

Praise for *A Perfect Mess*—“No one is more solidly in our corner than God himself. He lifts us up, dusts us off, and cheers us on in the messy race of life. In this delightful and often humorous journey into Psalms, Lisa Harper helps us discover God’s grace in every step along the way.” —Max Lucado
“Lisa Harper knows life. And she knows God’s Word. I love how she intertwines the two, bringing hope to the hopeless and help to everyone who’s ever felt like a perfect mess. With fresh insight and poignant stories, Lisa reveals a God who brings order out of

chaos with just a wordâeven the chaos of our lives.ââ “Joanna Weaver, author of *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*âA Perfect Mess deftly applies the ancient truths found in Psalms to our very frazzled, contemporary lives. Donât let her breezy, easy-to-read style fool you; Lisa Harper is clearly a woman who loves the Lord and His Word, and she handles both with care, offering amusing examples from her own âmessyâ life even as she encourages us to get real about our ongoing need for Godâs cleansing grace.ââ “Liz Curtis Higgs, best-selling author of *Bad Girls of the Bible*âA Perfect Mess will cause you to breathe a sigh of relief. Finally we are assured that we arenât the only ones who need encouragement as we stare in disbelief at the chaos in our lives. Thank God for His reassuring presence, and thank God for my friend Lisa. In her own unique way, she has taken truth, stirred it with grace, and then sprinkled it with her gentle and warm writing style. The result is a delicious read that soothes the deepest parts of those of us who are a perfect mess. Read and be blessed.ââ “Priscilla Shirer, author and Bible teacherâThis book is bursting with healing and hope. Lisa is a wonderful friend, Bible teacher, and storyteller who helps us find ourselves in Psalms and understand that just as we are, we are loved by God.ââ “Sheila Walsh, *Women of Faith* speaker and author of *Let Go*âI read *A Perfect Mess* from cover to cover, soaking up every word of teaching and each great story that Lisa told. She is one of my all-time favorite Bible teachers, so what a joy to learn from her in these new lessons from Psalms. I will never forget reading about Lisaâs mom, who crawled underneath the bed one night to comfort her sad and hiding baby girl. What a beautiful picture of our pursuing Fatherâs love. So grab your Bible and your favorite underlining pen, open this great book, and begin learning for yourself how our beautiful God makes something perfect and glorious from our messy lives.ââ “Angela Thomas, best-selling author and speakerâWhat do climbing trees, tight-fitting clothes, loose-fitting sweatpants, and boogie shoes have in common with the book of Psalms? Donât worry; I didnât know either, but Lisa Harper has an incredible way of exploring a text written thousands of years ago and finding the relevance to our modern lives. Lisa points out something that I already knew but was afraid to admit: we are all perfectâmesses, that is. She reminds us that although we may be messy, our heavenly Father has big arms and doesnât mind getting dirty.ââ “Chonda Pierce, comedienne, author, and recording artistâLisa Harper is one of my favorite writers (and favorite people), and this is my favorite book sheâs ever written! I love how she connects words and connects our hearts. She makes old truths so today. I feel safe with her. I think this might be how Jesus would talk if He were walking around in our lives, in our times. I sense His presence in the middle of my mess. This book is a gift. Give it to yourself.ââ “Lisa Whelchel, author of the bestseller *Creative Correction* and *The Facts of Life and Other Lessons My Father Taught Me*

Lisa Harper is a master storyteller whose lively approach connects the dots between the Bible era and modern life. She is a sought-after Bible teacher and speaker whose upcoming appearances include the national Women of Faith Conferences. A veteran of numerous radio and television programs and the author of several books, she also is a regular columnist for Today's Christian Woman magazine. Lisa recently completed a master's of theological studies from Covenant Theological Seminary. She makes her home outside Nashville.

My ladies circle group used this book as the source for our monthly lessons. Lisa Harper wrote of her own experiences and intermingled them with stories in Psalms. There are 12 chapters in this book which we used as 12 Lessons. Each one broke-down a Psalm to understand it and relate it to our own lives. We had some concerns about not having a "teacher's lesson plan" available. It all worked out well for us. The end of each chapter has a list of questions on which to ponder. Some have other Bible verse references to consider. Our "teacher" used these questions to guide our group discussion. It worked out beautifully. We had a lot of great discussions that came from these Psalm lessons. The title of this book is perfect! Each lesson both explained and reminded us that we are human and we make messes of things but God loves us anyway much like we as parents love our own children even when the "mess things up". We would highly recommend this book for an individual or group to read. Especially for our group, the price was right which made it more accessible to us through . I say....Give it a try.

I purchased this book for my wife. She loves to study her Bible, and Lisa Harper is her very favorite Bible teacher. She flew through it and is planning to read it again. Very thankful for used books that are affordable, so that my wife can read the books that she loves.

Despite being called "used", book was in great condition! Easily readable and made good points. I wish I could click 4.5 stars. (Not quite 5 because a few of her points seemed a bit obscure to me, but that was minor.) My Bible study group loved it.

The "young women's" small group that I host is currently using this book as our devotional guide. I read the book fully before introducing it to the group, and I must say its a keeper! From the first story Harper had me laughing...but yet still having "A ha!" moments. The use of the Psalms in this book will have you looking at verses you have read before in a different light. Any woman...young old,

married, single, childless, mother, quiet, ambitious....will be able to relate to this book! I love how Harper is down to earth. She admits her downfalls. She admits when she wanted to yell and swear in frustration. She is real. She does not put Christian women on a unreachable pedestal. She admits we are human...and helps us learn how to deal with it. I would recommend this book for personal reading pleasures, personal devotions, or a small group setting. The reason I gave the book a 4 out of 5 stars is because of the discussion portion of the chapters. I found the questions to be simple, and inadequate. They did not dig deep enough into the heart of the matter. I thought so much more could have been done with the personal reflection questions. But I would still HIGHLY recommend the book!!

This book is perfect for a bible study or women's group. Lisa Harper brings her point across in a funny, intellectual way. She touches on issues that we, as woman, have dealt with and balances it with the word of God.

Lisa Harper's life, heart, work is to be enjoyed. She is funny, authentic and you can preview her style on you tube. A small group of women in Mexico are now growing in the Word of God, enjoying the fruit of Lisa's study of Malachi, the last book of the OT, followed by 400 years of silence. What a gift this book is to anyone who falsely feels that they could never be good enough to attend church and seek God with all the rest of us broken people!

Excellent reading and very thought provoking! Reading this book is like sitting and having coffee with Lisa Harper! She shares her personal stories and before you know it she has taken you from her life into the book of Psalms. I could relate to everything she shared. I was both encouraged and exhorted...and I laughed until my stomach hurt!!!

So worth the purchase for those of us who feel like we are so messed up inside that there would be no way the Lord could use us to His glory. Wrong! We're just the kind He loves to call to service because others can relate to us and we can relate to their situations. It helps remind me that "God don't make no junk." And gosh, I'm so glad! And Lisa Harper has a style all her own that can definitely hold the reader's attention. Thank you, God, for loving me enough not to give up on me.

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