

2009 Theme: *Imperfectly Perfect*

The lead character in one of my favorite Disney movies, *Mary Poppins*, is a special sort of nanny. She flew with her umbrella, talked to birds, and even made chalk paintings come alive – all without a hair out of place. While growing up, I admired Mary Poppins; I wanted to be like her. As I think about the magical nanny, I remember one of my favorite scenes from the movie. After measuring the heights of her charges, Mary measures her own height. The tape measure does not give a number – it simply says, “Mary Poppins: Practically Perfect in Every Way.”

Perhaps this is what draws the children and me to Mary. She’s mysterious and she’s wonderful, but she’s also practically *perfect*. Isn’t that what we all seek? We look for the *perfect* vegetables when shopping, the *perfect* outfit for an interview, the *perfect* spot for a family vacation – we’re programmed to seek *perfection*. And yet, many times we end up entirely disappointed. We look for *perfection* but can find it nowhere.

Our disappointment comes because *perfection* does not exist in our world. Mary Poppins herself was only *practically* perfect. This phrase acknowledges the shortcoming we all possess. We are *imperfect*. We fail; we are incapable; we get hurt; we hurt others. And yet our Heavenly Father doesn’t see that *imperfection* when he looks at us. Why? Because our world did glimpse true *perfection* once. That *perfection* was embodied in Jesus Christ, who came to earth and lived a *perfect* life. He took our sin even though he didn’t deserve it. He died and conquered death so that when God the Father looks at his children, he no longer sees us as *practically* perfect with our flaws and *imperfections* – he sees *perfect*, pure and holy children. We are disappointed when we seek *perfection* in the things of the world because in actuality, *Perfection* seeks us.

2009’s summer theme is *Imperfectly Perfect* based on Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” In our Bible studies and chapel services we will rejoice in the Grace bestowed on us as we look at our *imperfections* in light of the mercy and forgiveness of *Perfection* – Christ Jesus. We look forward to seeing you this summer.

Imperfectly Perfect,

Hannah “Chopper” Froehlich