

**An Imperfect Christmas 2019**  
**The Imperfect Christmas Tree**  
**John 1:1-5, 14**

**INTRODUCTION**

As we begin our Advent Series- An Imperfect Christmas: Courageously Embracing Our Flaws, we name the pressure we feel to create the “perfect” Christmas. It is impossible for us to have a “perfect” Christmas but it is possible to recognize the ways in which God comes into our lives in his perfect ways.

**DISCUSSION**

1. Share a story of a from your past Christmas that did not go according to plan. What happened? How did you feel about it when it was happening? How do you feel about it now?
2. What does the perfect Christmas look like in your mind? What do you feel if you are unable to have or create that image you have?
3. In her sermon Pastor Liz talked about shame as being the voice in your head saying two things, 1. You're not good enough 2. Who do you think you are? Share as you feel comfortable, when do you experience shame in your life? What thing, activity, situation causes you to hear the voice of shame in your head?
4. Read John 1: 1-5, 14. Jesus came to share God's perfect love with the world, not because we are perfect but because God is perfect. Even when things do not go perfectly God is still present. Looking back where do you see God present in the story you shared for #1?
5. What is one thing you can give yourself permission to not feel pressure to make perfect this holiday season? Name it, claim it and tell someone what it is to help keep you accountable for when you get stressed or the voice of shame appears they will help remind you that no matter what Jesus is coming into the world, even if not everything is 'perfect.'"

**KEEPING IN STEP**

Notice when you are beginning to feel stressed, ashamed or worked up over something this holiday season. When it happens remind yourself of this statement: **Jesus is coming not because I am perfect but because his love is perfect.** Write it down, post it on your bathroom mirror or refrigerator, keep it in your wallet, somewhere that you will see it and it will be a reminder of the promise of this Advent season.