

Enough is our Concordia University Texas theme for the 2023-2024 academic year.

CONNECT

with self and others:

- 1. What are you most excited about for December, Christmas, and the end of the year?
- 2. God came down as a baby born and named, Jesus. If you were God coming down to save the world, would you have “come down” the same way He chose to? If not, how would you “come down” to save the world?

NOTES: _____

ENGAGE

the Word.

A man was playing golf, and as he drove his cart along the sidewalk, he noticed something ahead of him and came to a sudden stop. There before him was a trail of hundreds of ants, all about to be squashed by his cart. He considered many choices: one was to continue driving and run over the ants, sure death for many of these creatures. Another option was to go around them, but he knew that the other golfers might not be as considerate, posing a similar risk to the ants. The third possibility was to find a way to warn the ants of the impending danger. He chose the latter and vowed to save them.

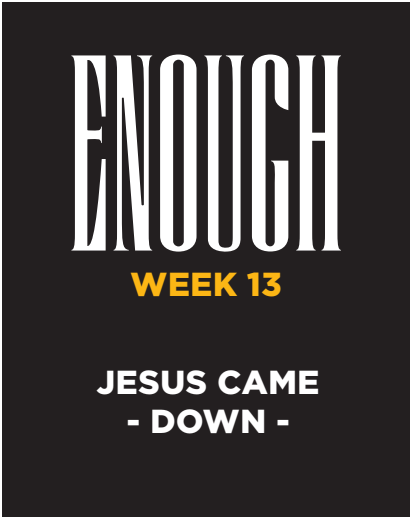
The golfer got down on his hands and knees and yelled to the ants, “Get out of the way! You’re going to die if you don’t move.” They didn’t listen and went on about their business.

He then ripped off part of his scorecard and wrote on it, “Danger! Do not cross,” and put it along the path. The ants still did not change what they were doing.

Lastly, he did the only thing he could think of left to do. He became one of the ants and joined their world. He left the luxuries of his cart and his fancy clothes to descend to their level as a simple ant. As he scurried up and down the path, the now ant-man was able to warn the other ants about the impending danger.

This fable* shows us what Jesus did for us by becoming a human for us. He not only came down (descended) to warn us of the danger, but he died in our place since we were unable to save ourselves. We are not able to do, or be, enough, but Jesus’ sacrifice is enough for us.

**Story source unknown*



READ
Isaiah 9:6-7

This was written about 700 years before the birth of Jesus. Isaiah’s words describe who Jesus would be for us. This should blow your mind. The prophet knew years ahead how special Jesus’ descent into our world would be and how His birth would change everything – it would be enough. Jesus’ purpose for coming to earth was, according to Luke 19:10, to “seek and to save the lost.” As we enter the Advent (“coming”) and Christmas season, may we be reminded of the reason Jesus was born for us. Jesus has come down for you.

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

- Isaiah 9:6-7

QUESTIONS:

- 1. Have you ever felt like the stress of the world was on your shoulders? How would you describe that feeling?
- 2. Why do you think we (the ants) don’t often listen to God’s words and choose to do our own thing?
- 3. What do you think it was like for Jesus to leave his Godly form and become a human?
- 4. Which of the names for Jesus from the Isaiah verse is most meaningful to you?

NOTES: _____



DIG DEEPER

Read Isaiah 9:2-7 together:

- 1. In verse 2, what do you think is meant by the “darkness”? Who is the light?
- 2. According to verses 2-4, what are some of the reasons people are so joyful?
- 3. What does it mean to you that “His peace will have no end”? (Verse7) In what area of your life do you need Jesus’ peace right now?
- 4. The two other sub-themes this week are “Dweltled - John 1:1-16 - The Word Dwelt Among Us” and “Died - Isaiah 53:1-6 - The Suffering Servant.” Read those verses and think about how those two themes tie together with the theme of this devotional, “Descended - Jesus came down!”

