

God's Grace is Enough

God's grace is enough for us, even when it doesn't feel like we deserve it.

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

CONNECT

with self and others:

1. Who is the most powerful person you know? Why would you say that?

2. Describe what "power" looks like in politics, religion, Concordia Texas, church?

NOTES:



"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

I love climbing mountains. I often love reaching the summit of a mountain because of the accomplishment I feel. I feel like I had the strength to do something challenging that seemed impossible. Last year, I climbed a 14,000-foot mountain peak in Idaho with the hope of reaching the summit in victory, proving to myself and my friends that I was a real mountain climber. However, about halfway up the mountain is a section called "Chicken-out Ridge" where I started to panic, and when a storm arose, I had an anxiety attack. The mountain proved stronger than me, and if we had started the ascent earlier in the day, we might have made it to the summit. Even though people warned us not to be caught on the mountain after 1 p.m. due to storms, we still got caught. The mountain not only has thin, sharp ridges that challenged us, but because of its elevation, it draws in massive thunderstorms. Mountains, while I love them, are so scary because of the amount of power they show. Our weakness was shown in the power of the mountain. This is a lot like God's power. In our weaknesses, His strength abounds.



- GRACE AS -POWER

²² The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. ²⁴ And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. 25 When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day has broken." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." ²⁷ And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said. "Jacob." ²⁸ Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. 30 So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and vet my life has been delivered." ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip. ³² Therefore to this day the people of Israel do not eat the sinew of the thigh that is on the hip socket. because he touched the socket of Jacob's hip on the sinew of the thigh.

- Genesis 32:22-32

NOTES: _____

READ Genesis 32:22-32

Jacob wrestles with God in this passage after continually trying to live the good life on his own. He starts off by stealing his brother's birthright, then works for Laban for many years to try and marry a woman named Rachel. However, Jacob gets tricked and ends up marrying her sister Leah and then must work more. You can see why Jacob would wrestle with God. In the passage, Jacob's hip was put out of joint. God was showing that Jacob was weak, and that he needed to depend on God in his life. God is way more powerful than us in every way, and we fall short of anything because God could do it way better. And yet, God offers us grace in our failures and shortcomings to show His mighty power. He sent His own Son down as a sacrifice to die for our sins and be resurrected in power over the enemy. Even at Jesus' weakest, most vulnerable state, He displays true power as He defeats death in His own death. We are weak, He is strong.

QUESTIONS:

1. When have you depended on your own strength and failed?

2. Do you tend to boast about your strengths or weaknesses? What are some examples?

3. What does it look like to boast about our weaknesses to show the power of Christ?

SHARE:

Apply to your life.

Names have meaning in the Bible. Jacob's name means, "deceiver." After Jacob wrestles with God, his name is changed from Jacob to "Israel" meaning, "one who wrestles with God."

1. When is a time you have deceived someone, or someone has deceived you? How did God do His work through that situation?

2. When is a time you have wrestled with God in your life? How did it turn out?

3. Jesus in His weakness overcomes death. What does it look like for you to depend on Jesus' strength this week, knowing that He has the power to overcome even death?



PRAYER:

Jesus, thank you that when I am weak, You are strong. I pray that in my mountaintop moments and in my deep valleys of darkness, You would gently remind me of Your strength. Help me to look to Your power for my provision in my life, and to help point others to the lifechanging power You have. Thank you, **Amen**

NOTES:



QUESTIONS:

Page 1

1. Who is the most powerful person you know? Why would you say that?

2. Describe what "power" looks like in politics, religion, Concordia Texas, church?

Page 2

1. When have you depended on your own strength and failed?

2. Do you tend to boast about your strengths or weaknesses? What are some examples?

3. What does it look like to boast about our weaknesses to show the power of Christ?

4. When is a time you have deceived someone, or someone has deceived you? How did God do His work through that situation?

5. When is a time you have wrestled with God in your life? How did it turn out?

6. Jesus in His weakness overcomes death. What does it look like for you to depend on Jesus' strength this week, knowing that He has the power to overcome even death?