CAMPUS MINISTRY
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY TEXAS

ENOUGH

WEEK 12

GOD'S LOVE FOR US IS - CONSTANTLY - CHASING US

NOTES:

More Than Enough – Lost Son, Sheep, and Coin

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

CONNECT

with self and others:

1. What is something significant that you have lost before? Did you find it? What level of energy did you go through to find it?

2. Has there ever been a time in your life where you have wanted to handle something all on your own and while everything was perfect for a little bit, reality soon caught up to you? Please share.

ENGAGE

the Word.

An example of this could be something as simple as a group project. You wanted a good grade in the class and are an overachiever and think that this is something you can complete on your own but, you have four other classes you need to balance as well, and time has caught up to you. You now have a whole project due tonight by midnight, and you have rejected the help that was offered from the beginning.

Will you go out of your way to reach out to your group and ask for help? Or will you remain stubborn and continue suffering on your own? You now know that this is not really something that you can handle on your own and all you wish for is that you could go back in time and change things or how you handled a situation.

READ

The Parable of the Lost Son: Luke 15:11-32

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[11] Jesus continued: "There was a man
who had two sons. [12] The younger
one said to his father, 'Father, give
me my share of the estate.' So, he
divided his property between them.[13]
"Not long after that, the younger
son got together all he had, set
off for a distant country and there
squandered his wealth in wild living.
[14] After he had spent everything,
there was a severe famine in that
whole country, and he began to be in
need. [15] So he went and hired himself
out to a citizen of that country, who
sent him to his fields to feed pigs. [16]
He longed to fill his stomach with the
pods that the pigs were eating, but
no one gave him anything. [17] "When
he came to his senses, he said, 'How
many of my father's hired servants
have food to spare, and here I am
starving to death! [18] I will set out and
go back to my father and say to him:
Father, I have sinned against heaven
and against you. [19] I am no longer
worthy to be called your son; make
me like one of your hired servants.' [20]
So he got up and went to his father.
"But while he was still a long way off,
his father saw him and was filled with
compassion for him; he ran to his
son, threw his arms around him, and
kissed him.[21] "The son said to him,
'Father, I have sinned against heaven
and against you. I am no longer
worthy to be called your son.'[22]
"But the father said to his servants,
'Quick! Bring the best robe and put
it on him. Put a ring on his finger
and sandals on his feet. [23] Bring the
fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a
feast and celebrate. [24] For this son
of mine was dead and is alive again;
he was lost and is found.' So, they
began to celebrate.[25] "Meanwhile, the
older son was in the field. When he
came to the house, he heard music
and dancing. [26] So he called one of
the servants and asked him what
was going on. [27] 'Your brother has
come,' he replied, 'and your father
has killed the fattened calf because
he has him back safe and sound.'[28]
"The older brother became angry
and refused to go in. So, his father
went out and pleaded with him. [29]
But he answered his father, 'Look! All
these years I've been slaving for you
and never disobeyed your orders.
Yet you never gave me even a young
goat so I could celebrate with my
friends.[30] But when this son of yours
who has squandered your property
with prostitutes comes home, you
kill the fattened calf for him!'[31] "'My
son,' the father said, 'you are always
with me, and everything I have is
yours. [32] But we had to celebrate
and be glad because this brother of
yours was dead and is alive again; he
was lost and is found.'"

- Luke 15:11-32

Reflection

based on Scripture:

Notice how in this story, we are told that even though this son had strayed so far away from his father, he was still welcomed with open arms of grace beyond our understanding. This is how God is there for us in each of our lives. No matter how far we stray away, He will always be waiting for us when we return to Him. He wants nothing more than for us to unite with him in the new heaven, and new earth when He returns, and after all, He knows we are imperfect human beings who will fail at temptation every day. He does not receive perfection from us but fulfills what we are unable to do. He invites us daily to return to His grace instead of living life in a pig pin, doubting our identity as daughters and sons of God, and living a messy life on our own. In this story, the Son swallowed his pride to ask his father for just a little place in His father's house as a servant, yet he was received back as a true family member and son. That is more than enough grace.

DIG DEEPER:

Read the first part of Luke 15:1-10

1. What is the significance of Jesus leaving the 99 sheep to find the 1 sheep? How have you seen Jesus take this step in your own life to find you?

2. What is the point of the parable of the lost coin?

3. What was the result in heaven after both the sheep and coin were found? How does that affect your purpose and mission with what you do with your own life on earth?

SHARE

Apply to your life:

1. Has there ever been a time in your life where you have felt you have strayed so far away from someone or something that you never thought you could get back? Maybe this was a family member or a friend. What did you do to fix it?

2. Do you see yourself as any of the characters in this story? If so, which ones and why?

3. Do you see where the older son is coming from and why he is so angry? Since the younger son now is back in the family, the older son would have had to re-split his leftover inheritance with the younger son. Yikes. I can see why he is ticked off. How can you better sacrifice and empathize with others as they repent and receive grace in their testimony of God's love?

4. This story reminds us of the unconditional love that God has for us. Who is someone that you have shown this type of love to, and how?

5. Can you think of any modern-day examples that require this type of forgiveness and understanding?

Daily Practice:

I challenge you to take what you have learned from this scripture story and use it in your daily life, especially throughout this week as you go on your day. Remind yourself to be patient and understanding and remember how the Prodigal Son was forgiven.

PRAYER:

Lord, thank you for continuously loving and supporting me and us. I know I am not perfect, but please allow me to be given your strength when I am weak, love when I feel forsaken, courage when I am afraid, forgiveness daily when I sin, wisdom when I feel foolish, and comfort when I feel alone. In Jesus' Name, **Amen.**

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Connect at **Concordia.edu/enough** and **@ctxcampusministry** throughout the semester!

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