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You are not enough, you'll never be enough, and that's okay, because God's grace is enough for you.

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

Friends, Jesus sees you.

I can remember playing kickball on the playground during recess in 6th grade. Sounds like fun, right? For me, it wasn't the best experience because that day I got picked...LAST! (btw this is Dr. Grant) had not hit puberty yet so I was pretty skinny and underwhelming in size. Even though I knew that, I was still humiliated and embarrassed to be picked...LAST.

Have you ever felt like this? I wish I could say that was the only time I felt that way, but unfortunately, life continually reminds you that you're not enough. Like that one time I didn't get the job I wanted, or the time one of my classmates got a better grade than I did, even though I put in more work than them. Life can be humbling, and we often feel like we don't measure up.

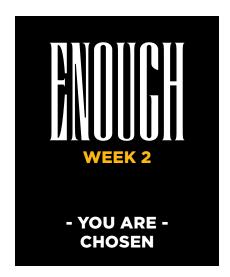
It's good to know that we're not the only ones to feel this way. In 1 Samuel the Israelites are looking for a new king after Saul doesn't work out. Jesse offers up all of his sons but none of them are chosen to be the next king. Then Jesse presents David, a pretty skinny and underwhelming guy himself. and he is chosen as the next king of Israel! By God's grace, He doesn't always choose the people who are the smartest, strongest, or best looking, which is good news for you and for me.

In fact, Jesus choses us, even though we are pretty sinful and underwhelming in what we say, think, and feel toward other people. But Jesus gives His life for us on the cross so that we would no longer be rejected. Instead, we are chosen to be part of His family! He is our enough-ness.

READ

1 Samuel 16:7 and answer these questions:

- **1.** Have you ever been picked last or been left out? How did you feel?
- **2.** How has the world reminded you lately that you aren't enough?
- 3. Why do you think God looks more at our hearts than our outward appearances?
- **4.** How has God reminded you lately that you are chosen by Him?



Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

- 1 Samuel 16:7

DIG DEEPER

(now, later, alone, in a group):

- **1.** Look up and read 1 Samuel 16:1-13. In verse 5, it says David's family consecrated themselves and sacrificed to the Lord. What do you think this means?
- **2.** How do you think consecration and sacrifice go hand in hand with the posture of our hearts?
- **3.** This week, how can you set yourself apart for God and better prepare your heart for how He might use you?
- **4.** If you are in a group, go around and pray for the person on your left and remind them that they are chosen by God.

PRAYER:

Jesus, am I enough? Jesus, we thank you that you choose us and that by your death and resurrection, you are enough for both Your Father, and for us. Continue to remind us of this truth as we also help to share this with those around us. Thank you for your grace, mercy, and love. In Jesus name, by the power of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

