

NOTES:

# He longs for our love and creates in us a longing for Him.

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

## CONNECT with self and others

1. What's the longest hike/walk/run you have ever done?

2. What do you long for out of life?

**3.** Another way to put it, what do you crave? (Food? Relationships? Money? Success?)

## $ENGAGE \ {\rm the} \ {\rm word}$

When I was a student at Concordia University in Irvine, CA (Pastor Jake here - don't ask how long ago that was!) I will always remember going on a trip with some friends and professors to the Grand Canyon. We didn't just look down into the massive hole, we hiked from the North rim to South rim, in one day. The hike was 24 miles. It was a long exhausting day. The heat got worse as we ascended out and up. And as I was shedding calories, water weight, and straining to just keep putting one foot in front of the other, the cravings began. With low blood sugar and fatigue, I longed to eat pizza and drink a beer, (I was 22) followed up by a bowl of mint chocolate chip ice cream. I longed for my stomach to be filled and my cravings met. And after a dozen plus hours of hiking, that longing was fulfilled that evening.

We all long for something, or someone throughout our lives, in certain seasons or days.

At a deeper level than pizza cravings, and during those college years of my life, I was craving to have a deeper relationship with friends by talking about our hopes, dreams to meet someone special, and to be graduating into our vocations soon. I also longed to connect with God in His Word and do His will for my life of serving others in the local church. That longing has not stopped as an adult. I still long for God's grace and can't get enough of Him each day. And I pray (as your campus pastor) that God places that same longing for Him on your heart, and that we as a community, can help you foster rhythms and practices to have those longings met in Jesus.

What's incredible is that God can stir in us this same longing for Him. Sometimes we aren't looking for it and it comes. Other times we ask for it. God graciously meets with us where we are at in life to meet that longing as the Messiah ("Anointed One") by offering us Himself. A long time ago, when Jesus walked the earth, He satisfied this longing for a woman who was getting water from a well during the heat of the day.



<sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. <sup>7</sup> When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans. <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup> "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"  $^{\rm 13}$  Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

# READ

John 4:6-15 and answer these questions:

**1.** What different physical things were the disciples and Jesus' longing for? (v. 6)

**2.** Do you think this woman understood what Jesus meant about Him offering her living water? Why or why not? (v. 15)



Jesus gives this thirsty and outcasted women from Samaria a thirst quencher big gulp that goes beyond the physical need for water. He gave her the gift of a relationship with himself as her Messiah and Anointed Savior. He begins to fulfill in her parched heart, a deeper longing, below the surface, of her soul into a right relationship with God. This included forgiveness of sins, and a new beginning of being included as a member of God's eternal family. After arguing theologically with Jesus about worship practices, Jesus reveals that He is the Messiah she has been longing for her whole life.

St. Augustine, once made a point about our relationship with our desires and our relationships with God and said this, "You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." May Jesus, the one who died and rose again, be the One you long for most this week as you live out your vocation in the Concordia community this week.

And when you find yourself craving pizza, beverages, and ice cream because you are parched this semester on the field in the sun, studying for mid-terms late at night, (staff/faculty) working hard for students, or hiking out on Tornado Trail, always remember, **God longs for our love and creates in us a longing for Him.** 

### SHARE:

Take one minute to silently reflect on this devotions message. Then share your answer to this question. *What do you believe God is teaching you in His Word today and how are you being challenged to apply it to your life?* 

- John 4:6-15

# NOTES:

#### PRAYER(our prayer comes from Psalm 63)

You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. You are the Living Water for my soul. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, I cling to you; your right hand upholds me. In Jesus name, by the power of the Holy Spirit, **Amen**.



#### **QUESTIONS:**

## Page 1

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# Page 2

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