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God is Enough Even Through our Temptation

3 Things to Let Go of Before Easter

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

CONNECT

with self and others:

- **1.** What drives insecurity inside of us, or what specifically promotes feelings of insecurity?
- **2.** Share an instance when you doubted yourself, others, or God. How would have the situation or your perspective shifted if you hadn't doubted?
- **3.** How can insecurity be seen as beneficial, or what good can result from feelings of insecurity?

ENGAGE

the word:

Starting over was difficult for this young girl. She had left everything she had ever known when she moved. No family, no friends, nothing. She walked around this new place, arms crossed over her chest, eyes looking at the ground, thoughts running through her head about what other people were thinking about her when they walked past. Then she thought that they probably didn't think anything of her because they hadn't noticed she was there. Lies streamed through her mind about how she wasn't pretty enough to be noticed, how she wasn't smart enough to be heard, how she appeared quiet and therefore judgmental and haughty. All she wanted to do was go back to her room, curl up in a blanket, and read a book because that seemed to be the only way to escape reality. Every day, the girl got out of bed praying that God would take this cup from her. She prayed constantly that people would stop closing the door in her face or notice the tears filling her eyes when others forgot she existed.

READ Luke 22:39-44



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Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and His disciples followed Him. On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt, and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." An angel from heaven appeared to Him and strengthened Him. And being in anguish, He prayed more earnestly, and His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

Insecurity comes from a preoccupation with the things of this world and a constant mindset on oneself. It's an idol that everyone falls into whether you are the most confident person or not. In fact, confidence is often the very thing that people use to cover up their insecurities. When we put an abundance of energy and effort into focusing on how we can be better, how we can improve ourselves, and how we can make others like us, it takes all the attention away from God. God didn't form you with His hands and breathe life into you so you could try to fix everything that He "messed up." God created you exactly the way He intended to. Nothing about you, not your looks, abilities, or personality was an accident. Every part of your being was purposefully and unwaveringly done. God didn't create you to look or act like someone else; He created you to be the next glorious representation of Himself.

Jesus understood that right before He was arrested. He prayed that God would remove the pain He was about to face and that there might be another way to salvation. He was distressed, sorrowful, and tormented to the point where He began sweating blood. It was a panic attack to the max. Yet, if He had ended there, He would be no different than the young girl and her daily train of thought. The difference is that Christ declared that God's will be done over His own. He didn't look at the world, at Himself, or at others. He looked at God and said this is where I am meant to be because, through it, You will be glorified.

It may have taken six years for the girl to be noticed by others, but it took less than a second for God to notice her. She remembered that she didn't need others' approval to be God's work of art. She was already His because, in Christ, He made her more than enough.

QUESTIONS:

- **1.** If you are comfortable sharing, what is your biggest insecurity or the thing that you think about most in life?
- **2.** When you look in the mirror, do you see God's work of art?
- **3.** What kind of person do you wish God created you to be? Why do you think He didn't do that?

SHARE

apply to your life:

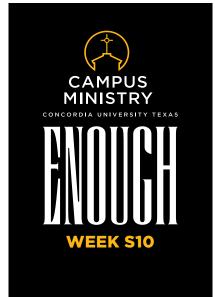
- **1.** How can you look to Christ in your insecure moments?
- **2.** What are simple things you can do to remind yourself that you were made exactly the way God intended?
- **3.** Why do you think God created you the way that you are? How might you glorify Christ with the gifts and personality that God formed you with?

LOOK UP

Psalm 139:13-14 / Ephesians 1:4-6

PRAYER:

Lord, you see us. You see our struggles, our pain, our heartache. When no one else notices that we are fighting with the person inside of us, You do. You take the parts of us that we despise and wish were different and remind us that every part of our being is created on purpose for Your purpose. When the whole world makes us want to crawl away and hide, remind us that You don't change. That You are the same loving, forgiving, and gracious God that You were yesterday and will be tomorrow. Through us, You will be praised. Help us to remember that we are Yours and nothing, not our insecurities, pain, or shortcomings, will be able to separate us from You. In Your precious and holy name. Amen



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