

NOTES: ______

The One Who is With Us Through Changes Finding Joy in The Freedom of What's Next

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

CONNECT

with self and others:

- **1.** What type of season do you feel that you are in? Are you in the season of change, growth, or are you feeling stuck? Are you feeling multiple seasons at once? Share with the group.
- **2.** Share a time you felt the most at peace. What did it feel like physically, mentally, and spiritually?

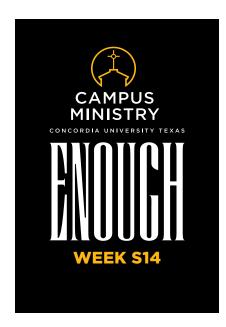
ENGAGE

the word:

Change is a scary subject for most people. Consistency is comfort, so of course we feel uncomfortable when our schedule changes. Some of us are having trouble finding our calling, knowing what to do after college, what the summer looks like, etc., etc. It's all overwhelming, and thinking about it probably just heightens that level of stress. Even change within us can be a sea of emotions and anxiety. This is difficult for influencing our choices and our faith, and it can blind us to our dreams and calling. We are sent into a changing world in Christianity. Finding ways to make change applicable to a life lesson is difficult because when we're in the middle of the change, it's all we can focus on. We hyper-fixate on how much has gone wrong, or what is going wrong, that we forget about the big picture.

The big picture of God has so many layers, inner workings, gears, and turnings that there's no way we could fully understand it. Trying to control the situation is a stress response many of us have, but how can we control a plan made by God when we don't understand what it means? Change may be defined by our situation, but it doesn't have to define our worth and who we are in Christ. We can find joy in the freedom of what's next because of Him. Try looking out of your situation and looking towards what we are called in. Can you see a possible sense of peace to be found? Through the change, Jesus is enough to be our joy. He's a consistent rock in a world where things are always changing and always throwing us for a loop. That will always be more than enough to rely on.





- ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses so that Christ's power may rest on me.
 - 2nd Corinthians 12:8-9
- ²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.

- 1st John 20:21-23

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READ

2nd Corinthians 12:8-9

QUESTIONS:

- **1.** What are some examples that Jesus has set for us on "finding joy in the unknown situations?"
- **2.** What's a big takeaway from 2nd Corinthians 12:8-9? What type of message does it relate to in terms of change?

BIBLE VERSE

1st John 20:21-23

READ BIBLE VERSE and answer these questions:

- **1.** Read over 1st John 20:21-23. What do you think this verse is talking about? What do you think it means to find joy in the unknown situations that God puts us in?
- **2.** 1st John 20:21 talks about sending his people right after talking about peace. How can you see that peace in your life?

SHARE

apply to your life:

- **1.** Where can you find joy in the unknown circumstances this week? How can you comfort others when they feel fear in the unknown?
- **2.** Take a moment to look over both verses again. Where are they similar? What types of messages do they hold?

LOOK UP

1st John 20:21-23

PRAYER:

Please let each one of us have a clear vision and sign about our anxieties that we are struggling with this week. Let us remove ourselves from our own perspective and look toward Your guidance. Let us find joy in the unknown circumstances that scare us and let us find peace in Your comfort. Thank You for providing us with more than enough to help ourselves and others, and to love as You have loved us. Amen

NOTES:	
	CAMPUS MINISTRY CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY TEXAS
	WEEK S14

