

NOTES:

For God so loved the world that He gave us Jesus, isn't that enough? Our Need For God's Unconditional Love

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

CONNECT

with self and others:

1. Did you ever share Valentine's Day candies in class or have any celebrations of that holiday that meant a lot to you? Share your experiences with the holiday and what you celebrated.

2. Was there ever a time when Valentine's Day was hard for you or someone you knew? If you have a story, share with the group your thoughts and feelings about the subject.

3. Have you seen Jesus be apparent through Valentine's Day? Have you seen his love in that day where most of the focus is off of him?

ENGAGE

the word:

Love can be a scary, unpredictable thing for many people (I know for a fact that it is one of my greatest fears; I cannot imagine someone seeing me that way!). I am hesitant to trust people again in any type of relationship, romantic or not, because I have been hurt so many times. Valentine's Day can really, really suck for the people who don't receive that letter they were hoping for, or don't have the courage to ask that one question to the person they have a crush on. It can get really messy between friend groups and when text messages fly back and forth about who's talking to whom. Even people in a relationship can struggle with this holiday; maybe the right thing wasn't said, or enough time wasn't spent on the other person.

It may be cliché to say that Jesus was single his whole life and that we should be happy where we are in our relationship status with friends and partner. However, the whole point of connecting with others, romantically or not, is to demonstrate God's relationship with us. Jesus gave us people in our lives to love and to cherish. He is enough for us because he has loved enough. He is the perfect example of how we should pour into our relationships in every aspect. Paul speaks about singleness as a gift that we can use, and how we can love other people without being in a relationship. Jesus encompasses a love and a light we can follow. By using his example, we can better understand his love for us and how to care for each other when we are heartbroken or lonely.



⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

- 1 John 4:7-12

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READ 1 John 4:7-12

QUESTIONS:

1. How does God sacrifice it all for us? Look over 1 John 4:7-12. What does this tell us about sacrifice and love? Elaborate your thoughts and feelings on these verses.

2. When have you felt loved by another person that would be a good example of how Jesus loves others?

3. Is there anyone you can think of right now who needs to be loved and heard? Keep a mental tab on that person you're thinking of, and think of one way this week to connect and reach out to them.

DIG DEEPER:

1. Scan over 1st Corinthians 13:4-13 and read aloud. Think about the intentions and definition behind this verse. What message do you think that the author wants us to receive from this section of the passage?

2. Where else in the Bible does it talk about the love mentioned in 1st Corinthians 13:4-13? Why is this type of love important to us as followers of God?

SHARE

apply to your life:

1. How can you use Jesus's example of loving others in your life this week?

2. Is there something you can do each week to include others in love? What would that look like? Us as followers of God?

LOOK UP 1st Corinthians 13:4-13

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled: where there is knowledge. it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears.¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child. I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

CAMPUS MINISTRY CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Amen.

PRAYER:

¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

- 1st Corinthians 13:4-13

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

Thank you for giving us the ability to love others. Thank you for giving us all a revival and second life through you because you are enough. You are the ultimate source of devotion and light and a perfect example of what we should strive for every day. Please guide us on our path to be more like you and show us clarity on any situation that we are struggling with. Thank you for giving us another day cherish each other!





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