

Longing for acceptance? God sees you!

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

CONNECT

with self and others:

- 1. What's the most heartfelt compliment you've ever received?
- **2.** How do you or how have you helped others feel seen and accepted?
- **3.** When was a time you truly felt seen and accepted by someone? How long did it last?

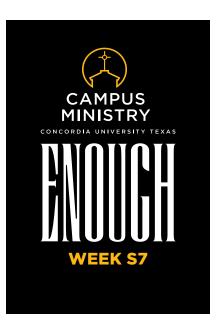
ENGAGE

the word:

I remember when I first moved from Nigeria to Texas. I was so excited to experience that high school musical American life. My first day of school outfit was laid on the bed ready to be worn, with my shoes at the bottom of the jeans. I felt so ready and confident the night before. I got to school hoping to mingle with people I thought I was friends with, but I ended up calling my mom during lunch to keep me company and comfort me after being rejected. We have all had that feeling one way or another. Where you feel like you do not belong or you feel like an outcast because no one understands you or speaks your language. At those times we need a safe place to go, someone to turn to, and make us feel accepted. Christ wants to be our safe place. He died for us to be able to communicate and find refuge in God's presence, not for a semester but for eternity. What amazing grace.



READ1 John 3:1-3, 11-18



¹See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

"For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. $^{12}\mbox{We}$ should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. 13 Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. 15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. ¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

- 1 John 3:1-3, 11-18

QUESTIONS:

- **1.** What verse stands out to you? Why?
- **2.** Was there a time when you had to show love and kindness to a difficult person? Have you ever been that person to someone else?
- **3.** In the bible we see times when Christ showed love and kindness to people who betrayed him. He continued to let them know that they were accepted and never rejected in his eyes. How does 1 John 3 remind you of being accepted?

READ BIBLE VERSE

and answer these questions:

¹² What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³ And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray.

- Matthew 18: 12-13

- **1.** How would you feel if your favorite person in the world threw you a surprise party simply for just being their favorite person?
- **2.** In Matthew 18: 12-13, we see a sheep being valued to an extreme. Sheep do not know as much as their shepherd. They simply live their lives without any worry while their shepherd does what is best for them. Who do the shepherd and sheep represent?

SHARE

apply to your life:

- **1.** Do you genuinely feel accepted and loved by Christ? Why or why not?
- **2.** If there is anyone who understands what you are going through, it is Jesus. He has been through it all. He sees you. What is a practical way you can run to Christ when the enemy tries to lie to you this week?

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, King of kings, Lord of lords, I am that I am. Thank You for our lives. Thank You for protecting and providing for us. You alone are worthy of being praised. God, please forgive us for all our sins committed knowingly and unknowingly. Holy Spirit, we ask that You guide our every footstep throughout the days and nights. Remind us daily that You are always there for us. Comfort and heal those aching and yearning in silence. Help us continue to aim to be more like You, Jesus, as we go back into the world. Remind us that we are not of it. Thank you for all. In Jesus' name. Amen

| NOTES: | | CONC | CAMPUS MINISTRY ORDIA UNIVERSITY TEXAS WEEK S7 |
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