



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

### CONNECT

*with self and others:*

1. Have you ever felt like someone was better than you in so many areas that it felt like you couldn't compete with them? Did this ever make you jealous? Frustrated? Exhausted by it?
2. Share with the group one time you felt like you thought you could do everything by yourself. How did that go for you? Were you overwhelmed?

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### ENGAGE

*the word:*

Have you felt incompetent because someone was more skilled than you at something you considered to be your "thing?" I know I sure have. Words are my thing, and I can write some very compelling arguments and essays. "Define that" is a staple to half my research papers, thesis statements, and interview sources. I'd always pass with flying colors and could pop out a paper in twenty minutes when it came to English. This eventually led to me creating an entire student council, creating each role, and carefully constructing the whole student body and government system. I was convinced that I would become the President of the Student Council- I had created it, word by word and system by system. I was at the top of the food chain, right? I thought that I deserved the position of president just from my work. I knew I had it in the bag. I was worthy of the position.

After losing terribly and wanting to crawl into a hole and die, I felt incompetent to my superiors. A senior in high school received the position of President, and I received Vice President. Looking back on the whole situation, was it really that soul-crushing? I was only a sophomore in high school, and yet I was clawing at academic validation and needing to be the best at what I considered part of my identity. If someone could do it better than me, then was it really something that I was good at? I realized I put my worth in the wrong place and in the wrong things. I hadn't even considered changing my mindset to Jesus. I had failed to see the people above me who could minister to me and the way I could change my perspective in a new light to not see my academic "failures" as a weapon against myself. Jesus constantly reminds us that we are going to continuously grow through our faith, and that we aren't to form our identity around the things of this world. Learning that was very difficult, but having a newfound sense of love and compassion for myself through Jesus is something to be cherished.



<sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

- Hebrews 13:7-9

"We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. <sup>2</sup> Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. <sup>3</sup> For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." [a] <sup>4</sup> For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

<sup>5</sup> May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, <sup>6</sup> so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."

- Romans 15:1-7

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**READ**  
Hebrews 13:7-9

**QUESTIONS:**

- 1.** Read over Hebrews 13:7-9 if you haven't already. What are the main ideas that stick out to you about leadership? Do you see leaders like this in your life?
- 2.** What do you think it means when the passage talks about "imitating their faith"? Have you seen yourself putting this into action?
- 3.** How does your identity in God tie into your current leadership positions? How are you being a leader to other people in your life?

**BIBLE VERSE**  
Romans 15:1-7

**READ BIBLE VERSE** and answer these questions:

- 1.** Skim over Romans 15:1-7 again. What does it look like to put this verse into practice? What type of message is this passage conveying?
- 2.** Do you think this specific message in this passage is relevant to your identity in Christ? Why or why not?

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**SHARE**

*apply to your life:*

- 1.** In what ways can you lead others like in Hebrews 13:7-9? How can you follow the leaders above you in your life?
- 2.** Scan back over Romans 15:1-7. How is similar and/or different to Hebrews 13:7-9? Is there any overlap? What is the message that you see here?
- 3.** How can you use the opportunities of your influence for a positive change on campus? Can you elaborate and come up with steps to put into practice for this week? life?



**PRAYER:**

*Dear Lord, please teach us to focus on a secure identity in You—a peaceful, nonjudgmental mindset towards others and ourselves and a sense of knowing that You are enough for us. Help us to learn from the leaders and lessons You’ve blessed us with in our lives and open our eyes to a new perspective of learning through them. Teach us to listen closely, to be observant of Your signs, and of Your opportunities to minister and lead others in a way that glorifies You. Let us remember the main ideas from today and put them into practice. Amen*

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