



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

CONNECT

with self and others:

1. Is there a time when you felt accepted this school year, or have you seen someone else accepted? Share with the group how that made you feel.
2. Is it difficult to accept who you are? Why or why not?
3. Where have you seen Jesus in your life accept you for who you are?

NOTES: _____

ENGAGE

the word:

Acceptance is a tricky word in the Bible. As someone who likes to define terms, it's difficult to see myself as fully accepted by God when there's so much I want to change about myself. It seems like a double meaning that my head can't wrap around. How could he accept me fully when I'm so flawed, so full of sin, and struggle so much? This is a common experience a lot of us go through and think about often. It's so easy sometimes to tell others that they are accepted and loved by God, but when it comes to our personal lives, it can be difficult to fully believe that Jesus' acceptance of us is enough. We feel beaten, not worth anything, and like we can't ever be enough for Jesus in any way. What can we really do about it?

The good news is acceptance is provided for us; not from a secular source, a source of approval, or a standard to live up to. Jesus is the reason we don't have to carry the burdens of this world on our shoulders or seek and fight for acceptance. There is a reassurance in the fact that we can breathe a little easier, knowing that people's opinions of us don't need to define us. Our status in a relationship, our GPA, the rank of our education, or the number of hours in sports we commit to are not what receives us into the kingdom of God. Thankfully, we can rely on Jesus so we can be enough through him!

READ
Romans 15:1-7



¹"We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. ² Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. ³ For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." ⁴ 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.

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

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

- Romans 15:1-7

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QUESTIONS:

1. Read over Romans 15:1-7. What are your initial thoughts on this section of scripture? Elaborate with the group.
2. What are your thoughts on "accepting" someone and "loving" them? Do you think there is a difference between these words? Why or why not?
3. Who can you think of right now that you can encourage and build up like Jesus does for us? How can you do that this week?

READ BIBLE VERSE

and answer these questions:

1. What do you think that it means when the passage mentions "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me?" In Romans 15:1-7? What does this look like in our daily lives?
2. Where else in the Bible does it talk about acceptance? Look up where you see this word and what you think it's trying to say in that context. Share with the group what you found.

SHARE

apply to your life:

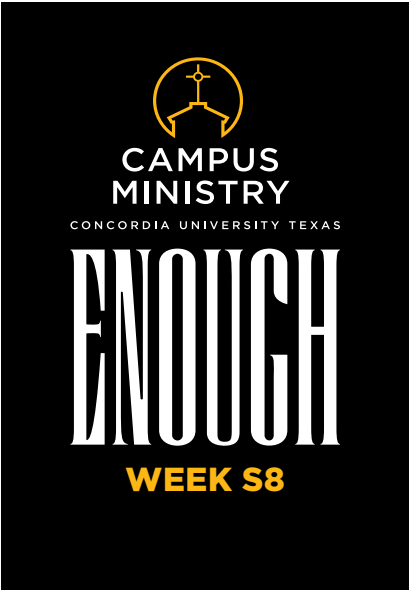
1. What verses on acceptance can you find and apply to this week for you personally? Look at the New and Old Testament for verses on this subject and share with the group.
2. What next steps can you take this week after your findings and discussion with the group?

LOOK UP
Romans 15:1-7

PRAYER:

Thank You for giving us another day to talk and discuss You. We thank You that You are enough and that we don't have to rely on our status in this world to be worthy. Your example of acceptance gives us hope to love others and forgive ourselves. Without You, we wouldn't have a sense of peace or understanding of who You are. We cannot thank You enough for Your perfect way and shining mercy upon us. Let us pursue the rest of this week knowing that You have accepted us for who we are. Amen

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