



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

You made it to the end of week number one! Only fifteen more weeks to go to get to Christmas Break! Students, faculty, and staff, I am sure there are plenty of us that are overwhelmed with a new environment, new routine, new roommate, new team, new boss, new role, new early morning class, and the list of new things goes on a very long way. Whatever it is that this week has thrown at you, you have made it to Friday. I am proud of you and I am sure many others are too.

Although we are on a high from finishing the week strong, let's go a little under the surface of our lives into our hearts. Have you ever felt like you didn't belong? Maybe you are with a big group of friends and yet you feel so alone because nobody seems to. Maybe you feel like you don't belong because your background and experiences don't seem to match up with the majority culture. Maybe you scroll through social media, and everyone seems to have found their group, but you just can't seem to connect deeply with others yet.

Think about a time you felt like you didn't belong. Share with God. Share with anyone in your group as led.

One of the worst feelings for anyone is not feeling like you belong. Trust me, we all have been there. This week we hope you have heard repeatedly our main point for the week: God has placed you here, and that is enough. Today, the focus will be on how we are redeemed by Jesus and that is enough.

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**READ**  
Isaiah 43:1-2 and insert your name where it is specified

# ENOUGH

WEEK 1

- REDEEMED -

But now thus says the Lord, he who created *(insert name)*, O Jacob, he who formed *(insert name)*, O Israel: 'Fear not, I have redeemed *(insert name)*; I have called *(insert name)* by name, *(insert name)* is mine. <sup>2</sup> When *(insert name)* pass through the waters, I will be with *(insert name)*; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm *(insert name)*; when *(insert name)* walk through fire *(insert name)* shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume *(insert name)*.

- Isaiah 43:1-2

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Wow, that was special. Hopefully hundreds of people connected to Concordia, on campus, in offices and classrooms, and virtually online, have read these verses and inserted their name into the passage. That would mean that hundreds of people like you and I have just had a chance to receive a reminder that we have been redeemed by God.

In ancient times, redemption was a term that was used in the context of one human buying another human to release them from their slavery. Unlike slaves who don't deserve chains but are put under this cruel unjust sentence, humanity received a spiritual slavery of sins by our own actions of rebelling against God's will. The punishment for sinning against God goes beyond slavery but includes deserving eternal death. And that includes us. We were born sinners and kept on sinning from the time we were conceived. Yet, while we were still sinners, Christ Jesus died for us (Romans 5:8). When you were baptized into His name, you were set free from slavery to sin and given a new master, God. And this Master will never hurt you but love you unconditionally through what can be valleys and fires of final exams, breakups, tough job tasks, friendships, parental expectations, and anything you face. By the way, if you haven't received grace through faith in baptism, and you believe in Jesus, let our campus ministry team know and we would love to help get you baptized.

We are so glad you are within the Concordia community and always remember, God has placed you here, and that is enough.

**PRAYER:**

*God, we thank you for always being there for us in our highs and lows. We thank you for calling us by name and making us belong to you. Help us this weekend to walk with others and serve wholeheartedly so that others around us would feel that they are included, have access to you, and belong. Help us be good friends to others. Thank you for sending Jesus to die on the cross for our sins so that we would be redeemed and set free. Thank you for placing me at Concordia, and that is enough for me. In Jesus name, by the power of the Holy Spirit, Amen.*

