



**CAMPUS
MINISTRY**
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY TEXAS

ENOUGH

WEEK 3

**- BIGGER THAN -
OUR ENEMIES**



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

I am a huge Houston Astros fan, and so are my family. Little Jake (way before Pastor Jake) grew up going most Sunday afternoons to the Astrodome right after church to watch baseball in cheap outfield seats. As a pre-teen, my brother would call the Astros talk radio to join the post-game analysis. My parents even won a big van from the Houston Astros (the van was cool but cringy with orange, blue and beige stripes). As you can imagine, it was a huge disappointment to find out that the Houston Astros cheated during the 2017 season in which they won the World Series. For Astros fans all across the nation, our world started falling apart. Many friends became baseball team enemies. Dodger fans are still ticked. Some of our players still get taunted. The Houston Astros created a lot of enemies and still many hate the team today (even though we won the 2022 World Series). Look, I totally get it. When someone is wronged, that hurt can easily lead to hate, and that can settle into seeing the other as an enemy.

But there is something more evil out there that taunts our world. We see it on the news all the time. Another murder of someone over differences, another war or fight that broke out due to unruly leaders, another school shooting in the news. We remember how evil people in the world can be every year on September 11th. More brokenness. More conflict. More hurt. All creating enemies.

The people of Israel had a longstanding enemy in the Philistines. These two groups hated each other. They were in constant battles over land and resources. In this scene, it's not looking favorable for Israel. The enemy has but one strategy, send in the big man giant, Goliath, to take care of their enemies. God has one strategy, and it's not a bigger giant, more soldiers, or sending in the calvary. It's the youngest recruit into God's way of defeating giants, David.

NOTES: _____

READ

1 Samuel 17:33-37 and answer these questions:

- 1.** King Saul told young David he was too young to fight the giant. Tell a story about a time when you were told you didn't have enough (age, experience, talent, etc.) to face a big task.
- 2.** David's rational of confidence for facing Goliath was his experience standing up to predators trying to kill the sheep for whom he was shepherd. In what ways can you see God preparing you through little things or behind the scenes battles for a greater battle into the future?
- 3.** Who does David give credit to for his past success defeating enemies? (see verse 37) Do you believe that same credit is due in your life successes as David gave to God?

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³³ Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth." ³⁴ But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, ³⁵ I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. ³⁶ Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. ³⁷ The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine." Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you."

- 1 Samuel 17:33-37

NOTES: _____

God used David's experiences as a skilled marksman with a rock and slingshot to slay a giant. Goliath falls, his head is cut off, and Israel rejoices in victory. We all have giants in our lives as well. But their heads don't always fall off easily. Some seem to never be defeated. Many times, we are left asking, "Where is God in the midst of all our brokenness? Why doesn't He just fix everything and make it right again? Isn't He all powerful? Isn't He supposed to be the guy that fixes it all?"

Even when we might not see what God is doing in the midst of our circumstances, we know and trust that He is still working in the midst of it all

Our Father is bigger than our circumstances, even when the world is falling apart.

Jesus Christ Himself faced the most important giant in our life: sin, death, and the Devil. He saw the brokenness killing our world. Jesus, perfectly God and human, lived a perfect life and loved even his enemies desiring that they would be forgiven by His Father. And still, he faced the worst and painful death in our place for our sins. Even in the worst moment in human history, what seemed like defeat from Satan's attack, God used it to bring salvation to the world. Jesus lay dead for three days and then rose up from death, alive, bigger than any giant we might face.

Concordia, God is bigger than any giant, tragedy, or enemy you face. As hard as it sounds, even if you lost your life because of an enemy, God would raise you up to new life at the resurrection. Even when it doesn't seem like He isn't doing anything, God is moving and working for our good. This is true

DIG DEEPER

(now, later, alone, in a group):

1. Read 1 Timothy 4:12. What encouragement do Paul's words to young pastor Timothy give you as you face your greatest challenges this semester week?
2. Read Luke 6:27-31. What stands out for you most about his radical love towards those who hurt us? Is it doable? How have you struggled or succeeded in this area? How can others pray for you specifically to work through loving others more intentionally?

PRAYER:

Thank you God for your bigger, better plans for our lives. Thank you for loving us enough to die for us! Help us to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ! Quiet our anxious hearts as we pray the prayer you taught your disciples to pray:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.