


**CAMPUS
MINISTRY**
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY TEXAS

ENOUGH

WEEK 4

Can't Get Enough
LONGING
- TO FOLLOW -
AFTER HIM

NOTES: _____



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

CONNECT with self and others

- 1. Are you more directionally challenged, or directionally aware?
- 2. Are you more of the driver or the navigator?
- 3. Share a story about being lost.



I am extremely directionally challenged (Chad Kelly here). In the summertime when I come home from school to Indiana, there is about a week period where I turn into a tourist in the town I have lived in for my whole life. I forget where everything is. I use maps to make sure I am going the right way on almost every drive. But I think everyone has that person in their life who is quite the opposite. This person is directionally an Olympic gold medalist. This is the type of person that will take a route once and remember it for eternity. My friend Cole is like this, he knows where everyone in our town lives and can tell you exactly what the fastest route is. When we are together, I drive, and he navigates. Imagine if Cole were to just tell me every turn and every speed limit before I even started the car, he wouldn't be a very good navigator. Cole tells me the next move as we get closer to it so that I follow the route he had intended. I trust Cole because I know and trust that Cole is taking me on the right path.

ENGAGE the word

READ
Matthew 16:24



Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

In the passage, Jesus tells his disciples that desiring to follow Jesus begins by denying yourself. This looks like receiving what Jesus has done for you as your Savior. You can't receive what Jesus has done in your life until you confess the fact that you are a sinner desperately needing a Savior. This takes denying your own desires for pride by saying, “I need help. I am not perfect. I don't want what my flesh desires, but I want what God wants for me”. The second part of the verse focuses then on living as a Christ follower, taking up our cross to follow Him. At the time the disciples didn't know what this totally meant. Everyone during this time period saw crosses on the side of the road. Romans killed their opponents as a sign and witness for all to obey Rome. But nobody wanted to take up a cross to die. These same disciples would soon after see Jesus willingly take up His own cross to die. The cross Jesus took up led Him to submit to His Father's plan for His life, although it would be painful. For us, taking up our cross means trusting in God's will for our life and trusting in the next step that has been placed in front of us by God without knowing the rest of the route, just like how I trusted Cole.

QUESTIONS:

1. Upon hearing this, what do you think/how do you feel?
2. What does taking up your cross look like for you right now?
3. What would it look like for you to trust in God's will for your life?

DIG DEEPER

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

1. Read Daniel 6:10. How is Daniel following God no matter the consequences?
2. Read Joshua 1:9. Even though we often feel as if we are alone, what does God promise us as He promised Joshua before going into leadership and battle for Israel?

SHARE:

Take one minute to silently reflect on this devotions message. Then share your answer to this question. ***This week, what steps can you take to take up to surrender to the crosses that God has prepared for you and follow God's will for your life? How can someone else help you in this surrender?***

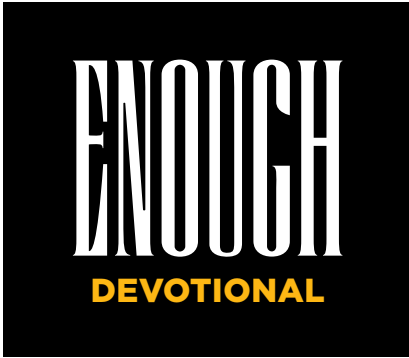


PRAYER:

Dear God, I often try to play both the driver and the navigator in my life. Let me be grateful for what you have given me, especially the free will to make choices. Give us who are struggling with taking up our cross to trust in what you have planned for our life and remind us that you have given the ultimate gift of Jesus to die on the cross so that we don't have to live in fear, but that we can live in peace knowing that the price of death was paid for on the cross. In Jesus name, Amen.

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Horizontal lines for note-taking.



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