



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

CONNECT with self and others:

What does it mean to be content?

NOTES: [horizontal lines for notes]

ENGAGE the Word:

I looked at the stack of bills that were sitting in front of me, needing to be paid sooner rather than later. I was a young man, married for only a few years, and thought to myself, "We do not have enough money in the bank to make this work." I worried about what would happen to our credit rating; I worried about what others would think of me; I worried whether I would be able to pay future bills; I worried about whether I would have to find a new job that paid more money. And then, the words of my pastor came to my head - "Pay your tithe first, and then the rest of the bills for the month." I was unconvinced at first, but decided to take him up on the challenge. I wrote out the check for church, for the school at which I taught, for the two ministries my wife and I were supporting, and then...well, you probably know the rest of the story. I paid the rest of the bills and there was money left over. Ever since that day almost 35 years ago, I have always paid our tithe first, and then the rest of the bills, and we have never gone without.

Trusting in God's promise is both the hardest and easiest thing to do. It's hard, because it seems impossible and impractical. It's easy, because what He promises is true - it works! Of course, the decision to trust His promises does not always come easy, nor is the result always what one expects. God promised, that through His Son Jesus, He would save his people from their sins. Jesus took that promise to the cross, the only place where He could atone for those sins. And on that cross, our sins were forgiven, a promise that is for us today and for eternity. That's one less thing I never need to worry about!



READ
Matthew 6:27-34 together

SHARE:

- 1. What advice have others given you to reduce your worries?
2. What passage from the Bible helps to reduce your worries?
3. Tell a story in which you were worried about something and, afterwards, everything turned out okay.
4. How do you help others deal with their own worry?

27 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? 28 And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. 34 Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

- Matthew 6:27-34

GOING DEEPER:

Read the story of Abraham sacrificing his son Isaac in Genesis 22:1-19:

- 1. Abraham has been called a "Knight of Faith" for his willingness to trust God's demand to sacrifice his son AND God's promise that he would be the father of many nations at the same time. How might faith be tied to contentment?
2. Consider your own journey of faith. Where have you encountered that difficult decision that seemed in conflict with God's promises? How did your faith impact that decision?
3. What might you say to a friend or family member who, facing a difficult decision, wonders why God has abandoned them? What words might you use to remind them of God's faithfulness even in the midst of difficult times?

NOTES: _____



PRAYER:

God, remind us that You are a consistent and constant God. That you are always here for us, waiting for us to call upon you. Help us to seek you so that we can love others well. Guide us as we go throughout this week serving you. Amen.

