



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

CONNECT with self and others

- 1. What is something you always ask others for help with?
- 2. What is something you never ask others for help with?
- 3. Have you ever been fully confident you can carry something by yourself, but it ended up being too heavy to carry? Share your story.

NOTES: _____

I (CTX Student, Ana Muldez here) worked at a fireworks tent during one of my past summers. One day at work I was tasked with moving our giant six-foot tall assortment full of fireworks from one side of the tent to the other. Instead of asking for help (you might be able to see what's about to happen), I attempted to carry the giant box all by myself. The box swayed, and ended up tipping over on top of me, knocking both me and the fireworks to the ground.

Carrying such a load requires companionship, someone willing to go alongside you and carry the weight. How often do you try to do things yourself? Often this desire to do things ourselves carries into our spiritual lives as we attempt to do things without help from God and others. There's an importance within community, being alongside others allow for us to get glimpses of traits that are magnified in God. Within each community there may be someone strengthened in protecting others, someone who will always listen, or maybe someone who always extends understanding. Each of these traits accentuates different parts of the characteristics of God Almighty, that God allows us to enjoy within humanity so that we can see His image working through others. When we come alongside each other, we are able to walk alongside Him. We were meant to pursue Christ alongside others and there is strength in numbers - you are not created to do life alone.

ENGAGE the word

READ
Revelation 7:9-12



John envisions a great multitude of people coming together at the end of earthly time, and he lost track of counting because the crowd was so huge. This great multitude is a community with people who lived on earth with different backgrounds, different nations, color, wealth, and languages. The image is that God then dwells in the middle of the crowd, creating community with God and cherishing companionship for all people with others around them.

How does this apply to me and us? The friend that comforts you after a long day and some shed tears over a tough situation, gives a glimpse to God's love as God will wipe every one of your tears in the end. Community and companionship allow for God to extend parts of Himself to you through others, and God does the same act of kindness through you. God has cherished relationships since the creation of humankind as God said, "It is not good for man to be alone" (Genesis 2:18). God provided man with women, and women with man, for mutual companionship, friendship, and marriage relationships. Jesus talked about the importance of community even in prayer. He said, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." (Matthew 18:20). God invites you to gather with others (that's why Grow Groups are so important) and around His Word, to be supported, encouraged, and empowered in community. So the next time you need help carrying a box, don't do what I did, but ask for help before you are lying on your back with boxes scattered all around you. Asking for help in the community can save you a lot of pain and hurt.

9 After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." 11 All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

- Revelation 7:9-12

NOTES: _____

DIG DEEPER

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

Read the previous passages (Revelation 7:9-17; Genesis 2:18; Matthew 18:20)

1. In the passage from Revelation, how would you define the community (great multitude) present in verses 9-10?
2. Read all of Genesis 2:18 (only a portion of the verse was mentioned). The verse mentions that Eve was made a "helper comparable to him", which means she was made as an equal partner rather than just a helper. How does this contribute to roles within community and companionship?
3. Read Matthew 18:20. How have you experienced strength in numbers?

SHARE:

1. When was the last time you tried to do something by yourself when you could have used some help? What is your instinct when you need help, is there a hesitancy to seek others?
2. What are some traits you admire in others? How can these traits be found in God?
3. When do you find yourself feeling withdrawn from finding community/companionship and how can others help you?
4. How can you alter this to walk alongside others?

PRAYER:

*Lord, thank You for revealing parts of your magnificence through others and for desiring to walk alongside me. Allow us to find our identity in You so that others can also get a glimpse of Your love through us. Help us to gather amongst each other in prayer and to find refuge in You. In Jesus Name, **Amen.***



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