



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

CONNECT

with self and others:

1. Share a story about moving from one place to another and what your overall feelings are now towards that experience.
2. How do you see God's faithfulness and plan being played out in your life through that moving experience?
3. What is your favorite animal, place on earth, or thing that God has created?

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ENGAGE

the Word.

As a Pastor's kid, (Abi Hilpert here) one of the things I did not sign up for but received was the opportunity to move around and travel to many places. Through my father's line of work, I have lived in Missouri, Nevada, Hawaii, Maryland, and Texas. I couldn't tell you, though, how many cities, states, or countries I have also visited for ministry-related events or vacations. One thing that traveling and moving has taught me is that starting over can be scary, but God is always with me. Even in the toughest of moves from Hawaii to Maryland when I was 16, God was with me and watched over my family. I'm not sure if you know what it's like, maybe you do, but it was super hard to have to move during high school from a small private school to the largest public school I have ever seen. Oh, better yet, that move happened during COVID too.

On those hard days, I would ask God, "Why can't people be easier to talk to? Why was I OK with leaving my family and friends in Hawaii for this?!" Those questions popped into my head countless times. Now for those who have never been to Maryland, the area my family and I live in is full of lush green trees with branches extending as high as the tops of restaurants and every available piece of land is covered with thriving bushes. Every day when I drove to school, work, church, or practice, I would look to the side of the road and see this beautiful creation. And then it hit me. "Who else but the one who created everything can change my mindset on this new place?" It was not until I was able to recognize the true beauty of creation that the key unlocked the door to understanding that God is around me wherever I move. God was with me in Hawaii with my friends, and God was with me



He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

- Colossians 1: 15-20

Gives us a better insight on how mighty God is: "For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent"

- Colossians 1: 16-17

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in Maryland. Even when I think I am alone, He is with me. God shows us His omnipotence and goodness with every little aspect of creation He has made. Even the things we are not able to see, God created.

READ
Colossians 1:15-20

You see, all things are held together by God. All we have in our very life is from the Lord and held together by the Lord. God is not just up in the heavens watching over us daily, He created all things in heaven and on earth and is intricately still involved in His creation today. Although all things around us are not perfect and are gradually wasting away over time, yearning for His restoration to take place, Jesus stepped into this messy creation on our behalf. Jesus entered the creation He spoke into being and laid down His life to forgive us. And He promises to return soon to restore creation back to a perfect creation. Yeah, God! The next time you walk around campus or walk outside your door wherever you live, look at the birds in the trees and the changing color of the leaves, and think, "the author of all life is behind all of this in some mysteriously cool way still today." And He gives us as His human creation, all these created things as grace upon grace to enjoy and see His creativity at work. Enjoy it!

SHARE:

apply to your life.

1. When have you felt alone and turned to God for guidance?
2. What other Bible stories can you think of that deal with people taking refuge in God being all things?
3. In what area of your life might you need to more fully surrender and trust in the promise that "All We Have" is from God and held together by Him?

LOOK UP ↑

How are these verses related to the idea that "All We Have" is from God our Creator and that He holds all things together?

Genesis 1:1-31; John 17:10-11; Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 1:30; Revelation 21:1-9

PRAYER:

Dear God, thank you for your amazing creation. Thank you for showing mercy on us even when we do not deserve it. Help us to see you everywhere we look, even in our darkest times. It was because of your Son's death on the cross and resurrection that we are forgiven and will spend eternity with you forever. Thank you for the promise that all things are held together by you. All we have is yours! In Jesus' name, Amen

DIG DEEPER:

1. Where else in the Bible does it talk about God being "the head of the body, the church"?
 2. Read the creation story of Genesis 1 and discuss the areas "All Things Are By Him".
 3. What other letters from Paul written to churches prove God's existence in all things?
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QUESTIONS:

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