

SUFFICIENT GRACE FOR HURTING GRADS

REDEEMER WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWSLETTER



WRITTEN BY SUSIE FIKSE

Is anyone else feeling a bit inadequate today? Or a lot inadequate? Not just today, but for the last 5,472 days of staying home? I feel inadequate to plan, purchase, and prepare three healthy meals a day while curbing the incessant snacking that elevates chips and chocolate over celery and clementines. I feel wildly inadequate to re-engineer how an organization functions, even though it's needed more than ever before. And I most assuredly do not feel adequate to show up perfectly coiffed for that late afternoon Zoom call!

But perhaps where I feel most inadequate right now is in parenting my three teenagers. I have a college student whose second semester was cut short and whose coveted summer research project was quashed. I have a freshman who is "dying" without her besties and detests online school. While my heart aches with them, it breaks for my high school senior. The long-awaited celebrations of his 12+ years of schooling. Canceled. His chance to perform the senior solo, don the tux for prom, turn the tassel. Canceled. Will his first year of college

be canceled too?

How can I possibly be adequate for the task of comforting him in the black hole of these disappointments? No wonder I wake up with a tight chest and queasy stomach. There are no easy answers, pithy quotes, or trite bible verses to solve this pain. I. do. not. have. words. It has to be a mother's deepest sorrow: the inability to rescue a child from his pain.

That's the initial descent in the spiral of feeling inadequate. That's when my flaws take flight in my head, when my fears of not being good enough grip my heart, when my failures obscure the future. But when did I start believing the lie that I could ever rescue anyone?

My grace is sufficient for you (2 Corinthians 12:9). These are the only words with the power to slow my racing heart and dispel the toxic thoughts. Jesus is enough. Jesus is adequate. Jesus holds the future. Jesus promises a better day will come. I have a Father in heaven. I lack for nothing. He anoints my head with oil. My cup overflows. That same Father

is watching over, providing for, protecting, and loving my kids better than I ever can. I am not adequate, but He is.

My grace is sufficient for you. These are the words with the power to stop the spinning descent. This is the reminder that I was always inadequate and always needed him, even in times that shine with the veneer of self-sufficiency. This truth is what I need right now to show up with courage and strength in the face of fear and uncertainty. And more than anything else I have to offer, these are the words my hurting high school senior needs to hear.



Susie Fikse is the director of Hope for San Diego, Redeemer's mercy partner. She attends Redeemer's new church plant, Trinity. During social distancing, she's working as a short-order cook, feeding six humans and three dogs in her house. If you'd like to learn more about how you can respond to the needs of our community right now through Hope for San Diego, visit www.hopeforsd.org and click on our coronavirus page.