# ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

RIVERBANK

## PREPARATION

* Ask a member to be prepared to share their testimony of when they have proved that God’s grace was enough
* Some kitchen scales, bowls and a variety of foodstuffs that can be weighed and measured, eg flour, sugar, crisps, nuts, grapes, berries, chocolate, biscuits …
* A bag of sweets or a box of chocolates to share or a small gift to give to each member of the group
* Print a copy of the wordsearch for each member and provide pens/pencils

Additional resource

* ‘Enough is enough!’ wordsearch

## INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Riverbank is an annual women’s conference run by the Family Ministries Department. Its name has its origin in Scripture:

* ‘On the Sabbath we went a little way outside the city to a riverbank, where we thought people would be meeting for prayer, and we sat down to speak with some women who had gathered there.’

(Acts 16:13 NLT)

When Paul and Timothy landed in the city of Philippi, instead of finding a group of men with whom they could share the good news of Jesus, they encountered the first women’s fellowship recorded in the New Testament. They met Lydia, a businesswoman dealing luxurious purple cloth, together with a group of women. As a result of this encounter with Paul and Timothy, Lydia and her household were converted!

We want to invite you to the Riverbank to meet with other women and discover a place to:

* encounter God in worship
* engage in Christian teaching;
* explore our God-given potential

The theme for 2023 is ‘Enough is Enough’.

## ACTIVITIES

### MEASURING ENOUGH

Have a variety of foodstuffs that can be weighed and measured, eg flour, sugar, crisps, nuts, grapes, berries, chocolate, biscuits. Ask members to try and guess what 30 grams looks like (or 3 oz in old money!). If several members are guessing, you may want to ask them to pour out their quantities into a bowl first before measuring. Place their guesses on some kitchen scales to see how close they are.

Talk about how easy it is to think that ‘enough’ is more or less than what it actually is, but that God’s grace is always enough.

### NOT ENOUGH TO GO ROUND

Have a bag of sweets, a box of chocolates, or a small gift to give to the group – but ensure that there are one or two items short for the number present, so that there are not enough to go round. Ask those members to share how they feel about being left out, before then giving them their treat too.

Talk about how it feels when it seems like there isn’t enough, and how easily we can doubt that God’s grace is enough particularly when life is difficult.

### TIME TO SHARE

Ask group members to share a time in their lives when they have proved that God’s grace was enough. Ask a member to share their prepared testimony.

### WORDSEARCH

Give members time to complete the wordsearch which contains words that are synonyms for enough. Members may wish to work in small groups.

## BIBLE READING/THOUGHT

### Enough is enough!

* ‘My grace is enough; it’s all you need.’

(2 Corinthians 12:9 MSG)

We all know that feeling when enough is enough!

You might feel it when you’ve dined at an all-you-can-eat buffet and have consumed more calories in one meal than you usually would in a week … and you can’t get up from the table … Or maybe it’s when someone is making you laugh so hard that tears flow and your sides ache and you just need to stop and take a breath …

Or what about that point of exasperation when the demands of life come thick and fast, one after the other, heavier and heavier, and we get to that point when we feel we just can’t take any more …

Enough, by definition, is ‘as much as is required’ – an adequate amount. And yet, ironically, we often use ‘enough’ to mean ‘less than’ or ‘more than’. ‘I am not tall enough to reach that shelf in the supermarket’ is something I may say, or ‘I’ve had enough of this cold – I just want it to go away!’

All of us will have been through times in our lives when, as Christians, we may have questioned the ‘enough-ness’ of God’s grace – when it has appeared less than we need it to be in the circumstances we are facing. Rather than trusting that his grace is enough, we strive of ourselves to make things happen, to put them right, to push through until we find what we think we need.

But God’s promise is that his grace is always enough – and nothing we do can make it be anything other than enough. All he asks of us is to receive his grace as a gift, to rest in the sufficiency of it, to trust that it is enough. But for most of us, at times that is easier said than done!

The Scripture text that is the inspiration for this year’s Riverbank conference is taken from Paul’s second letter to the church in Corinth:

* ‘… my grace is enough; it’s all you need.’

(2 Corinthians 12:9 MSG)

When God says he is enough, he means what he says! Enough is always enough; it cannot be any less and will never leave us wanting for more.

The concept of God’s limitless grace is awesome but also a challenge for our faith. In these very uncertain days, there are many areas of life that give us cause to worry if we’ll have enough. Let us hold on to the truth that God will always be enough, whatever our circumstances.

As Annie Johnson Flint writes in the song ‘He giveth more grace as our burdens grow greater’:

‘His love has no limits, his grace has no measure,

His power no boundary known unto men;

For out of his infinite riches in Jesus

He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again.’ (*SASB* 30)

In her book When strivings cease, Ruth Chou Simons writes this:

‘If, as Christ followers, we were to cling to what is true about God’s faithfulness, forgiveness, and [grace], we’d be unstoppable for the Kingdom of God.

‘Unstoppable in our ability to comfort others rather than be absorbed in ourselves.

Unstoppable in using our God-given gifts without comparison and self-assessment.

Unstoppable in proclaiming where our hope comes from to a hopeless world around us.

Unstoppable in offering others the same grace we’ve received from God.

Unstoppable in mercy.

Unstoppable in speaking a kind word to someone who deserves otherwise.

Unstoppable in living life to the fullest and wasting nothing, not even our suffering.’

May today each of us be unstoppable in living life to the fullest because we cling to the truth that God’s grace is always enough.

## SONGS

* *SASB* 30 ‘He giveth more grace as out burdens grow greater’

Watch the [instrumental lyric video](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QgxANn41NJc) by Kelston Stanford.

* *SASB* 453 ‘Amazing grace!’

Watch the [instrumental lyric video](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiTOSAuNWww) by Kelston Stanford.

* *SASB* 26 ‘Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father’

Watch the [instrumental lyric video](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVFZMbJT5-E) by Kelston Stanford.

* *SASB* 378 ‘Lord, I come before your throne of grace’

Watch the [instrumental lyric video](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jrpRI5oypGk) by Kelston Stanford.

## WEBSITE AND CONTACT DETAILS

* Connect website: [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/connect](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/connect)
* Family Ministries website: [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/families](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/families)
* Emails: [familyministries@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:familyministries@salvationarmy.org.uk)
* Facebook: @sarmyfm
* Twitter: @ukifamily
* Instagram: safamily\_ministries



## WORDSEARCH

### Enough is enough! wordsearch



Play this puzzle online at: [thewordsearch.com](https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/5619745/enough-is-enough/)

## WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

