



**Week of September 12, 2021**  
**In the Habit of Connecting**  
**John 15:1-8**

**Day One: Read Psalm 1**

*<sup>1</sup> Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. <sup>2</sup> But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night. <sup>3</sup> They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do. <sup>4</sup> But not the wicked! They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind. <sup>5</sup> They will be condemned at the time of judgment. Sinners will have no place among the godly. <sup>6</sup> For the Lord watches over the path of the godly, but the path of the wicked leads to destruction.*

- To “meditate” literally means to chew slowly and digest. When is the last time you read Scripture in that way? Try it with Psalm 1 right now. Let the words dissolve in your heart and unfold in your mind.

**Day Two: Read Genesis 28:10-17**

*<sup>10</sup> Meanwhile, Jacob left Beersheba and traveled toward Haran. <sup>11</sup> At sundown he arrived at a good place to set up camp and stopped there for the night. Jacob found a stone to rest his head against and lay down to sleep. <sup>12</sup> As he slept, he dreamed of a stairway that reached from the earth up to heaven. And he saw the angels of God going up and down the stairway. <sup>13</sup> At the top of the stairway stood the Lord, and he said, “I am the Lord, the God of your grandfather Abraham, and the God of your father, Isaac. The ground you are lying on belongs to you. I am giving it to you and your descendants. <sup>14</sup> Your descendants will be as numerous as the dust of the earth! They will spread out in all directions—to the west and the east, to the north and the south. And all the families of the earth will be blessed through you and your descendants. <sup>15</sup> What’s more, I am with you, and I will protect you wherever you go. One day I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have finished giving you everything I have promised you.” <sup>16</sup> Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I wasn’t even aware of it!” <sup>17</sup> But he was also afraid and said, “What an awesome place this is! It is none other than the house of God, the very gateway to heaven!”*

- Jacob’s dream awakens him to the reality of God all around him. What might help awaken you to the reality of God’s presence around you and in you today?

**Day Three: Read Romans 1:20**

*<sup>20</sup> For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.*

- Paul says that God’s character can be known by observing creation. Take a walk outside today if you can or spend some time looking out a window. Carefully observe the natural world. What does it say to you about the nature and character of God?

**Day Four: Read Acts 17:27-29**

*<sup>27</sup> “His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us. <sup>28</sup> For in him we live and move and exist. As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’ <sup>29</sup> And since this is true, we shouldn’t think of God as an idol designed by craftsmen from gold or silver or stone.*

- Rather than imagining God as some far-off deity, Paul says that God is the One in whom we live, move and exist. If we were fish, God would be the water. Put something in your pocket today to remind yourself that every moment of the day you are in God and God is in you.

**Day Five: Read James 1:19-27**

<sup>19</sup> Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. <sup>20</sup> Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. <sup>21</sup> So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. <sup>22</sup> But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. <sup>25</sup> But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it. <sup>26</sup> If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup> Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.

- Just reading Scripture and assuming that you will change is like watching tennis on television assuming you'll become a better player. James reminds us that we must do what the word says. What part of today's reading can you put into practice?