

“CONNECT: BUILDING UP OUR LIFE TOGETHER”
“Connecting Through Creation”

We continue the sermon series, “Connect: Building up our Life Together.” Where we have examined our life together and what connects us to one another and to God. To help with our focus and our prayer, each week we will be given a “building block” in a particular color. This week our color of building block is green. The color green represents growth and renewal. This week in worship we blessed our animals. This is a way of giving thanks for the good creation God has entrusted to us. So often our pets bring us comfort when we most need it. When times get tough a breath of fresh air or a walk through nature reminds us of God’s love for us. As our building blocks represent how we connect through creation with our relationships with animals, nature and each other, we find ways to stay connected and give glory to God, who created this beautiful masterpiece for us to dwell in.

Things I’d like to remember from today’s sermon: **“Connecting Through Creation”**

Daily prayer:

Creator God, who has filled the world with beauty. Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness. For the sake of him through whom all things were made, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

This week’s sermon may be viewed at <http://sundaystreams.com/go/firstwichita>

Study Guide

Monday, September 23, 2019 Genesis 9:8-17

A covenant is made, and it is expansive, including all of the animals of God's creation. If you read earlier in this story about the Great Flood, God is upset because the creatures of the earth continue to go against God's will. The flood utterly destroys all creatures of the fertile land, and it isn't until the land dries up, that the grace of God is present. This story is more about God's changing role in how God deals with flawed creatures who continue to mess up. What does covenant mean to you? Does having a God of grace you sends promises in the sign of a rainbow bring you comfort? *Holding your green building block say a prayer for God's grace to be realized in your life, and a friend's life.*

Tuesday, September 24, 2019 Psalm 8

"Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name throughout all the earth!" This psalm of praise is expansive to include all aspects of creation. As we continue to reflect on our interconnectedness, the call to steward creation with care and reverence increases. The daily necessities through natural resources we often take advantage of, are all a gift from God. Spend time pondering how majestic God's name is throughout the earth. Through every living, breathing creature, God's creative handiwork is manifest. *Using your four building blocks, connect them in a formation, and as you put each piece together be reminded of how each of our actions and connections in this world have a reaction in the earth. As yourself how you can better care for and steward this majestic creation. Listen for God to speak to you through the silence.*

Wednesday September 25, 2019 Psalm 65

God provides for us all that we need. God sustains, calms, and makes us a fit dwelling place for humanity to flourish. The beauty of this psalm reminds us how interactive God is through all creation. Creation, and humanity go hand in hand together and God speaks through the silence through the beauty witnessed through nature. *Take your building blocks with you in your hands, go for a walk outside. Listen to the sounds of the natural environment. Recite this first line three times, then head out for a prayer walk. "God of Zion, to you even silence is praise. Promises made to you are kept- you listen to prayer- inviting all living things to come to you."*

Thursday September 19, 2019 Colossians 1:15-23

What we see is often what makes lasting memories and impacts in our lives. Through nature, affectionate pets, beautiful sunsets, we see the promises of God and are thankful. In Colossians, we have a new image, Jesus is now the image of a once invisible God. Things that were once invisible are now attached to an image. Through a Trinitarian understanding, we believe that God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all divine as one God, with different essences. This scripture articulates that Jesus Christ was present before all things existed, thus showing a Trinitarian God who has always been intricately weaving our experiences together. *Spend time praying the connection prayer printed in the mesh pouch. Draw insights upon our interconnected world, and the interconnected God we worship.*

Friday September 20, 2019 Revelation 21:1-5

This familiar new heaven and new earth is marked by eternal life. In our current reality, especially with the seasons preparing to change, we know that all things have a life cycle and that death is the contrast to life. In this current reality, we try our hardest to care for creation, and give each living thing the best quality of life possible. This other reality, that there is a new heaven and new earth where death will be no more, gives hope to a people who anticipate death. *What does it mean to you that God is making "all things new?" What do you imagine this new heaven and earth to be like? Using your building blocks, try to create a new formation that you have not built yet, to signify this new heaven and new earth.*