

SERMON NOTES

February 22 & 23, 2025

First Things First: #1 Relational Habit Acts 17: 23-28

Word Study: "seek" – Zeteĩn – ζητέω (Greek) – to search by _____ **Acts 17:27**

1. God is not _____.

Psalm 139:7-12 | Acts 17:23- 28

2. A Relationship is a _____ of connection, a level of intimacy.

3. # 1 Relational Habit: Notice and make _____.

a. Possible Responses:

Turn _____

Turn _____

Turn _____

4. Strong relationships turn toward each other _____ when there is a bid for connection.

5. _____ is a bid by God for connection with me. **Matthew 18:20; 25:40**
Romans 8:20-21 | John 3:16

Life Steps

First Things First: #1 Relational Habit | February 24 - March 2, 2025

Monday

Psalms 139:7-12

Reflect: "Omnipresent" means that God is present everywhere at the same time. Where and how do you most experience the presence of God? How does the idea of God being Omnipresent impact how you think about your complicated relationships?

Prayer: All-pervading God, open my ears to your voice and my eyes to your presence. (Be still and quiet for a few minutes. Breathe deep and steadily, be aware of the presence of God. Pray for the people in your life who are challenging to love.)

Tuesday

Acts 17:22-28

Reflect: What insights about God do we learn from this passage? Is it comforting or disconcerting to know that God is never "far" from you? Explain

Prayer: Lord God of heaven and earth, reveal yourself to me. Walk with me. Speak to me. Teach me about who you are. I want to know you, and I want to know that you know me.

Wednesday

I Corinthians 13:4-8a

Reflect: In the weekend message, we defined a relationship as a shared experience of connection, a level of "intimacy." How does this passage underscore the truth of that definition? In your primary relationships, which of these attributes of agape love do you most need God's help to practice?

Prayer: Tender-hearted God, help me to love like Jesus.

Thursday

Matthew 22:27-39

Reflect: When God or a human being makes a bid for connection with us, we either turn toward, turn away, or turn against. Strong, loving relationships turn towards each other 83% of the time. What is your most frequent response when your spouse, your child, your sibling, or a friend makes a bid for connection? Why do you think that is? How can you respond better to each?

Prayer: God and Father of all humanity, help me to notice and respond well when others have a need to connect with me.

Friday

Matthew 18:20

Reflect: These words were spoken by Jesus himself. What does this verse say about the value Jesus places on relationships? Revisit your action plan, Thursday Life Step, when it comes to responding better to people in your inner circle.

Prayer: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, help me become one with those I love, even as you are one.

Saturday

I John 4:7-12

Reflect: While we were "turned away" from God, God "turned toward" us by sending Jesus (vs. 9) into the world. Through Jesus, he was making a bid for connection. How would you describe your current relationship with God? What would it be like for you to "turn toward" God more faithfully and regularly?

Prayer: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, help me become one with you, even as you are one.

Sunday

Colossians 3:16-17

Reflect: As you think about the past week, where have you seen God working for the good in your life? If you were to write a song of gratitude to God, what would be the title of the song?

Prayer: Thank you, God, for the peace of Christ that rules in my heart. I will strive in the coming week to do everything and say everything in the name of the Lord Jesus as an act of thanksgiving and praise.