



## Beautiful Fences: Week 1 — “God Still Reigns”

**CONNECT:** As a child, would you have identified as a rule-breaker or rule-follower? Can you recall a time when you pushed the boundaries an adult set for you? What were the consequences of your actions?

### GROW:

1. **Read Genesis 1:1-31.** The opening chapter of Genesis begins to reveal the character and nature of God, as well as His original intent and purpose for creation. Scott highlighted three specific aspects of God’s nature as Creator: truth, beauty, and goodness. Which one of these resonates with you the most, and why? How have you seen God’s redemption at work despite culture’s corruption of these things?
2. Another observation we can note is that God prefers control and order instead of chaos and dysfunction. Our God is a good father who wants what is best for His children. Although we may feel like these boundaries are a straightjacket, they’re actually set in place as guardrails in order to protect us from ourselves. What area(s) in your life do you find yourself attempting to push or remove the boundaries God has set in place? Why do we struggle to believe that God is a good father who knows what’s best?
3. **Read Genesis 3:1-7 and Matthew 4:1-11.** One of Satan’s oldest tricks is to plant seeds of doubt (“Did God really say...”). We have witnessed how this notion has become pervasive throughout society. The heart of spiritual warfare is the prideful tension of living out “our truth” vs. obeying God’s truth found in Scripture. Have you prioritized reading and studying God’s Word as part of your walk with Jesus? If not, what barriers do you need to address? Who has God placed in your life to help strengthen you in this area?
4. **Read Romans 1:25.** Satan wants us to worship anyone and anything except God. When good things become ultimate (god) things, they become destructive things. What idols are you currently struggling with (e.g. career, identity/image, knowledge, materialism, money, pride, safety/security, etc.)? How can you begin to give God His rightful seat on His throne in your life?

**PRAY:** David’s words found in Psalm 139:23-24 are considered to be one of the most powerful prayers found in Scripture. Invite God to expose any areas in your life where you are not walking in His will.

**NEXT:** If we’re being completely honest, each of us have the tendency to become too controlling in certain aspects of our lives. Read, pray, and marinate on the following verses this week—Psalm 22:28, Psalm 47:8, Proverbs 19:21, Colossians 1:17. Ask God to reveal how you can begin to trust that He is ultimately in control.