

Week 3:      *January 20 (Jan. 13–Jan. 19)*

- “Jacob’s Ladder”
- “If you will be with me, then...” Jacob’s prays, but makes it clear there is a condition: “if...then...”
- Biblical marriage? Jacob takes Leah and Rachel as his wives and has children by each of them, as well as by each of their maids
- Jacob wrestles with an angel, who renames him, “Israel”
- Esau forgives Jacob; they reconcile
- Joseph, Jacob’s son by Rachel, sports his wonderful robe. It doesn’t go over well with his brothers
- “Your faith has made you well”
- “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few”
- Jesus begins to lead the 12 to proclaim, “The kingdom of heaven has come near”. What about “conversion”?
- Trust the Holy Spirit to lead
- “be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell”
- Time for a sidebar about Satan and Hell
- What are we to do with these words: “Do not suppose I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.”
- “No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”
- “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”
- The prophet Isaiah pointed the way to the Messiah. We’ll read in more detail when we get to Isaiah beginning in late September
- A reference to Jesus’ mother and “brothers”
- Psalm 12:2 - “Everyone lies to their neighbor; they flatter with their lips, but harbor deception in their hearts”
- Psalm 13 is a Psalm of lament: “Will you forget me...”
- Read Psalm 16 more than once: “I say to the Lord, ‘You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing...’”
- Psalm 17:8 - “Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings.”