

# Nat Theo Club

## FIELD NOTES

ISSUE #81



### Pinedrops

Wildflower

#### HABITAT

A wide range throughout the western United States, Great Lakes regions, northeastern US, and southern Canada.

Coniferous and mixed forests.

#### EXPLORE

Take a nature walk this week and bring along a field guide book. You can find local flower, tree, bird, or insect books at the library. Challenge yourself to identify three things you don't yet know the names of. Read the guide book or do further research to learn ways God made that plant or creature unique.



#### HAS SOMETHING IN NATURE EVER CAUGHT YOUR EYE?

Last week, my husband and I were hiking through an alpine forest in the Rocky Mountains. I was playing a memory game, spotting different wildflowers and trying to remember their names. That is when I spotted a tall, dark red flowering plant I had never seen before. I love finding unfamiliar plants, because it's an opportunity to learn their name and a little bit about how God designed them. I pulled out my wildflower guidebook and flipped to the red section. After a few moments, I found a photo matching the flower in front of me, it was a pinedrop! Knowing nothing about this plant, I bent down to look closely at its small, drooping white flowers that looked like ornaments on a Christmas tree. I read in the guidebook that pinedrops do not produce much chlorophyll, which is what gives plants their green color and allows them to make their own food from the sun. I wondered if they, like orchids, get nutrients to grow from nearby fungus.

After researching back at home, I discovered pinedrops do indeed get nutrients from fungus, but that's not all. The fungus is also connected to nearby pine trees through roots. The fungus takes nutrients from the pine trees, and the pinedrop flowers take the nutrients from the fungus. It's one big connected underground system!

A pinedrop cannot grow without nutrients from fungus, which takes nutrients from pine trees. Similarly, we cannot grow and produce good things without receiving what we need from Christ, who is connected to God. John 15:5 says, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." What is one way you can draw what you need from Christ today? How can you depend on him for strength, wisdom, peace, or joy?