



Sunday:

Sunday School – 9:45 am

Worship – 10:45 am

Wednesday:

The Rock Wednesday – 6:45pm

BIG EVENTS:

Meet & Greet – September 20th

Refuel – MLK Weekend 2016

DNOW – (early Spring)

Summer Camp – June 2016

Upcoming Events:

TONIGHT – Kick off night (SNOW CONES!)

SEPTEMBER 20 - MEET & GREET (after AM service)

Meet & Greet is an opportunity to meet the student ministry, pick up a ministry plan and ask questions. We always want to make ourselves available!

This is also the time to sign up for Refuel and Summer Camp and receive a discount. Signing up early helps us plan most effectively. Refuel signups are now underway! We're headed back to Laughing Bear!

Lastly, meet & greet is an opportunity for students and parents not connected with the Rock on Wednesdays to get plugged in and learn more about what we do.

Coming this Fall:

1. Paintball (when it gets a bit cooler and the snakes leave)
2. Swimming Party at The Altman's
3. New Year Kick Off
4. Rock Meet & Greet
5. Breakfast Club (once school starts)

- - - REFUEL – MLK WEEKEND (45 Student Spots) - - -

place a deposit by September 20th for a \$20 discount

SIGN UP AT THE CHALKBOARD IN THE BACK OF THE ROCK.

The Hope & Prayer

The hope of this devotion book is to provide the opportunity for students and adults to spend time with God in His Word and through prayer. There are many great devotion books available to us and we are thankful you have chosen to journey through God's Word with this particular one. We hope and pray that students and adults take this opportunity seriously and become intentional in the time they devote to Him each day. We believe if this happens our walk with Him will strengthen.

The Plan – ABIDE 2015/16

This year we are going through the most beautiful story in the world on Wednesday nights. The story of the Bible is one of romance, jealousy, envy, pride, grace, mercy, power, humility and so much more. There is no way we could ever hope to cover every detail but we do seek to cover the high points on Wednesday and fill in the in between during the week through our devotions.

It is so important that you get on dive into these devotions with us as we seek to know what the Bible is all about and see how it helps us to know our God and follow Him.

Each devotion has a date so if you happen to miss a day or two the best thing to do is jump in on that date. We've set up the devotion to where you can use Saturday and Sunday as catch up days.

Above all we want you in the Word of God. We realize this is the best one but still it's a devotion written to gather the people of God around the Word of God. We hope and pray you'll join us as we dive into the story of the Bible this year!

A **B** **I** **D** **E**

SOME PERSONAL HELP:

3 things to exercise and work out as you read through Scripture

These are things you'll hear throughout the devotions and things that appear often within our student ministry.

You'll hear them, work through them and hopefully they eventually become a regular part of how you handle Scripture.

1. **Observe** – (What does it say?) What is there? What questions come up?
How does it repeat? What stands out?
Any shifts in the story or section of verses?
2. **Interpret** – (What does it mean?) What is the Bible saying about what stood out?
3. **Apply** – (What do I do?)
What is the intended response of the folks who would have read this first? What were they called or ask to do?
What do we take away from what we read?

5 questions to ask when reading Scripture?

Rather than reading try and be a student of the Word. These questions help us with this as well as get the point of Scripture and what God desires for us to hear and do. So again, work through the struggle and watch as God blesses this time.

1. What Does This Text Teach Me About God?
2. What Does This Text Teach Me About Man?
3. How Does This Text Point to Christ?
4. What do I need to know in light of this teaching?
5. What do I need to do in light of this teaching?

5 tips for a faithful, daily devotion

1. **Make it a priority** – stop making excuses and simply do what you know needs to be done in your walk with God. Enough is enough.
2. **Pray for guidance** – ask the Spirit to help you as you begin this time or if you've been doing this for years.
3. **Remove distractions** – you know how mad you get when someone interrupts your favorite song, show, book, game? Be that way with your time with the Lord.
4. **Plan for the Plan** - set aside a time and place but understand you don't have to be restricted with these. The important thing is doing it!
5. **Make it a Community Thing** – Get accountability! Bring your friends or family into it. If you go alone you'll not go far!

Leading a Bible Study

Many of you are in a place where this is a reality. There is always the possibility to lead one at school or simply share at an FCA or First Priority. Maybe you feel like you are not equipped or able to do this. This is a lie. If you can read Scripture you can lead a discussion regarding what you've read. The key is confidence and tools. ON the previous page are some basic questions to ask as you read Scripture. Here are some more to help you in this.

These are great for small group studies but also good as you approach a text to later teach or really just better understand personally.

Either way....this is really good and from Leadership Resources.

1 to 1 Bible Reading:



Eye:

- what do you see?
- what sticks out?
- what are things we have to talk about?

Question Mark:

- what is hard to understand?
- if you could ask the author a question?

Heart:

- what is the main idea?
- what is the heart of the passage?
- what is the one thing God is teaching us?

Arrow:

- what do we do from hearing this passage?
- how do apply the truths that this teaches us?
- how do I behave in light of the truth of this passage?

Got a Question you need help with?

Write it out and hand it Chris or a leader and we'll offer help each week.

Many times these issues are dealt with as we walk through Scripture but sometimes we just get curious or a little impatient. We realize there are broad statements in Scripture that address these things but also wrestle with wanting a specific verse that speaks directly to this issue.

So if this is you and you have some questions just let us know. You don't have to put your mind on it but that helps us know to pray and how to possibly pray with you. It also cuts down on just putting something down to put something down. But of course, if putting your name down means you don't have a question; don't put your name down.

THE ROCK
STUDENT MINISTRIES
P S . 6 1 : 2

*Devotions also available online at therocksm.org
open the .pdf file in iBooks or kindle and work away, work away.



who are you?

Before we get too far in would you just read the first verse (v.11) again and again. Just to make sure we don't move too fast...who was doing the work?

God does the work. God used the hands and feet of His people, the church, to do this great work. God doesn't need us yet he uses us for His name and His glory.

This work would/will accomplish so many things! This work is crazy when you think about it. Sometimes I have to step back from what I'm reading and just say it out loud. When I do it sounds too hard to be true. But is anything too hard for God? Look at verse 12. People were bringing their hankies to Paul and just letting it touch his skin and then they'd take it back to the sick or person needing healing and rub it on them and then they would be healed. That's crazy. Read that out loud the next time you go to chick fil a. People may think you're crazy right? I mean this is crazy stuff that's going on. But we come back to the fact that God is all powerful. He may hear us talking this out and be like "you think that's crazy? Watch this." Consider other parts of Scripture and look at all that God has done. Consider your own life. How could God choose to love and forgive us as bad as we sometimes are. Crazy.

Things just don't make sense sometimes do they? We can't explain it. Many people question if God is real because of all the evil in the world. People sometimes walk away from their faith because of the unexplainable and the fact that stuff doesn't make sense. But think about this....Even with God stuff doesn't make sense but more things don't make sense without Him. That's huge!

So while I don't completely understand what's going on here in these verses, while they may seem a little "weird," I keep holding fast to the fact that God is in control and He can do anything, at anytime, in anyway He chooses. He is God.

This scene is a crazy one; demons, holy hankies, exorcists, we can't miss the point of what's coming up next. This is really a showdown of good and evil. In the midst of this showdown the evil spirit brought down the house and exposed the Jewish priests. The Jewish priests were magicians basically. But look at verse 15. "I know Jesus, I know Paul, but who are you?" Their pretending was called out.

I hope these Jewish priests weren't too full of themselves because they just had their true colors shown. End result? Ensure what you claim to follow as truth is truth. These priests saw all that Paul was doing and tried to do the same only to fall flat on their face. Well really they ran out of the house naked (v.16).

Don't try and be somebody else. Don't try shortcuts. Don't pretend. Don't think you can misuse God's power or misrepresent God altogether. Don't use God for selfish gain. Bottom line - Trust God and walk only in Him.

Many things may not make sense but more things wouldn't make sense without Him.



the collision...

There are times in life when hope (life with God) and reality collide. There are moments when we must decide between what we believe to be true and that which we actually follow. By this I mean; there is a lie told by Satan that this life is for you. You make it to be whatever you want it to be. God is saying something totally different. God is saying this; trust in me, follow my Son. Following God is easy when things are going good. But when life gets crazy where will we turn. The danger is that we grab life by the horns and make it what we want it to be. That's the cry of our world; life is what you make it. But I want you to hear this, life is what God has declared. You do have a choice of how to walk. I pray we do as Micah. (Micah 4:5)

Walk slowly through these verses and think about what you follow, what you believe to be true, and most importantly, how are you walking?

In these verses you see real life happening in the life of Paul. He was caught in the ways of this world as he dealt with people clinging to materialism. We think we are the only generation struggling with this temptation but today's text shows us differently.

If you remember back several chapters when Paul was in Athens he preached against their idols. He wasn't really preaching against them as much as he was sharing the good news of Christ. He told them that this "unknown god" was real and they could know Him. Many received this news but many walked away, but they have returned. Real life versus life with God was colliding. But why can't real life be a life with God? It can but it takes work, sacrifice, resisting the lie and holding on to the truth of God and His Word.

The issue was this idol making was an occupation. So many people were out of a job because fewer people needed idols and this caused issues. They confronted Paul and in fact read verse 32. Tucked away in that verse is a word that describes our battle; **CONFUSION** or Confused.

People were confused and Satan was happy. Some people didn't even know why they were there as they were caught up in this mob of shouting and pointing fingers.

This seems about right doesn't it? The majority of people we walk with and around today are really just confused. We seem to walk and move and live not really knowing why, where, when, what we're doing. We just go with the flow.

Life and life with God are colliding and I pray you know where you stand. Is there reason to your voice? Is there a rhyme to your reason? Is there a purpose for your strides? Are you mad at God because you feel He's taken something away from you? Are you, like Paul, dealing with the aftermath of the collision? Are you simply in the mob of people screaming something and you have no clue why you're there?

In the midst of craziness we must hold fast to our unchanging God.

Life moves fast and often changes quickly but thankfully our foundation is firm.

Is your foundation firm?

Saturday – catch up or reflection

Saturdays are meant to use as catch up days or extended times of reflection where we revisit some truths of God's Word. Did you miss anything, hurry through or simply miss a day? Use today to ensure you didn't miss one thing or possibly just go deeper in His Word. We offer 5 days but of course the goal is that each day we are spending time with Him, in His Word.

What does it mean to Reflect?

By reflection we mean thinking a little more on what we've seen or read throughout the week. A good way to do this is by asking some questions:

1. What sticks out from your time in the Word?
2. What are some things I need to continue to dwell on?
3. What did I learn about God this week?
4. What did I learn about myself this week?
5. What is something I need to work on in the future?
6. What would make my time in the Word better?

If you desire to read something new we'd encourage you to read through Psalm 119

Sunday is a day of rest so enjoy the day of worship!



really?

The Bible is a serious book with a serious message. But it's really hard to not find some humor every now and again right? We've come upon one of these stories today that will cause us to laugh a little before reminding us of some huge things.

The funny – A teenager fell asleep during one of Paul's messages. You've been there! We've all been there. It's been a long day, you're tired, and this guy is teaching and beginning to possibly sound like the teacher off of Charlie Brown. Stop and google the teacher from Charlie Brown if you have no clue who I'm talking about.

Maybe even funnier – After the guy falls Paul goes down, checks him out, and says he'll be ok and then goes back up to continue teaching.....until daybreak.

I'm doubting you'll go for this but I'm inviting you all over to my house this weekend for a Bible Study. We'll start around 10 pm and go to around daybreak. The good news is my house is only 2 stories, this guy fell from 3 stories. The bad news is I'm not Paul so you best just stay away and stay on the couch. Unfortunately windows will not be ok for seats during the night.

But seriously, is this all we can learn from this passage? Tomorrow is filled with some things we need to see and learn. We've separated this passage out because it's a tad funny and we don't want to lose what happens next in the humor. But surely there is something here for us to take away isn't there? I think so!

The takeaway:

- See the power of God in the life of Paul. God was still using the early church to show His power. Common men filled with the knowledge and power of God were taking the world by storm. The teenager lived!
- Quit griping over an hour of your week given to attend church. We hate giving up our time for church don't we? Maybe not all of the time but think about how much time you truly give to God. How many hours a week is spent in reading His word, praying, being with His people around His word? We're not trying to get legalistic here, we're just trying to get to the heart of the matter. You'll give yourself to what truly matters in your life. You'll make time for what matters most.
- Paul should have led off the Bible study with a game right? He should have broken up the teaching with a cool video, some singing and dancing? Maybe a prayer walk or a cool creative lesson? The early church saw the need to make the main thing the main thing. There wasn't time for anything else.

What do we take away from this? Don't fall asleep in church. Yes. But spend your life keeping the main thing the main thing. What is the main thing for you?

**an example of a life with God...**

Thankfully we never have to really be confused when we think about what life with God looks like. We're so off sometimes in thinking that life will be easy and smooth.

For some reason the church has been led astray in this thinking. Today our text reminds us that a life lived for God's glory and the sake of the gospel is one that is determined and often filled with suffering. We see this world and we think this is home and this is where our ultimate joy is found but it's not. Our hope is that one day we will live eternally in the place that offers perfect peace and joy. That place is with our Creator and His Son Jesus. Until then we waver not, fighting hard for and in the gospel.

As we go through the devotion today I just want to pull out verses that speak to the life of Paul and essentially the life of the believer pursuing this end:

{The end being to fight hard for and in the gospel of Jesus Christ - what does this look like?}

- **serving the Lord with humility and tears with trials - v. 19**
- **doesn't shrink from declaring truth - v. 20**
- **testifying to everyone of the repentance of sin and faith in Christ - v. 21**
- **embracing the unknown - v. 22**
- **has put life in proper perspective - v. 24**
- **looking to a hope that outweighs the time on this earth - v. 25**
- **declaring all of God's truth, not just the popular - v. 27**
- **understands the danger and reality of following Christ - v. 28-30**
- **compassionately cares for the family of God - v. 31**
- **see the world's treasures as the world's best, not God's best - v. 33**
- **work hard, remember the words of Christ, give - v. 35**
- **pray, pray, pray - v. 36**

There are more details we can pull out but look at the list. This is Paul living a life devoted to a greater hope than this world could ever offer you and me.

But we must evaluate our own life. What is our hope? Where is our energy given? Are there tears for the lost? Is there a voice going out declaring Christ is King? Are we working hard or hardly working? Is this life really all there is or is there something greater yet to come?

We must stay humble and always seek the heart of God. This comes from our time in the Word and by being around people of God.

How can we ever hope to look and act as Christ when all of our time is spent in this world? We long to look like it, act like it, dress like it, sound like it, be liked by it, and before long we find we get what we want. We look like the world.

I pray we dig in and let our voice be heard!



embracing the will of God

Paul is headed to Jerusalem. Paul would never see these people or this land ever again. He knew this really but it would become more clear the closer he came to Jerusalem. Paul was embracing the will of God. He had weighed the things of the world against the ways of God and decided to follow Jesus.

As you can imagine many along the way, his friends, urged him to stay with them. Paul taught, lived, prayed and dwelled with many people along the way. On his way to Jerusalem Paul would stop by many towns to share one last goodbye in person. But this would not be the last they would hear from Paul. Paul wrote most of the remaining New Testament books and these books were actually letters to these churches we see him start in Acts. So while he would not be with them in body he would be with them through his teaching. That's very interesting and something for us to look at closer.

What will you be teaching after you're gone?

Sounds a bit creepy right? We're not saying we know something you don't and your parents are shipping you off tomorrow morning. But you always leave people right? You say goodbye at school, after church, after you've met for lunch, coffee, dinner, and/or breakfast. You always give a little "see ya" when you're parting ways. If "see ya" is not your word just work with me or substitute your word in it's place!

You never truly know when the last "see ya" will occur. That's not the point really to what I'm saying. The point is this; in the moments between goodbye and hello what are you teaching? What worth are you bringing to those people with whom you're in relationships? Paul's life kept teaching right? They were sad to see him go because he brought worth to the relationship. They were sad to see him go because they knew what was going to happen in Jerusalem. They loved Paul because of who Paul was in Christ. An important part of this passage today is to see the importance of your choice of words/impact/depth you add to your relationships. NOW – it's totally fine to act like a nut, goober, girl, boy, clown and have fun in our relationships. But at some point there needs to be depth right? We can joke around and have fun and simply be teenagers and immature right? Yes! But let's make sure we add a little weight to the relationship and understand that even when we're gone we have the ability to teach. What am I teaching when I'm gone?

[whether it be for 1 hour, 1 day or the rest of this life]

The second huge point, which to me is the biggest, is that Paul fully embraced the will of God. If there is one thing we know to be true about Paul it's this: he struggled with living and dying. Well yeah, that makes sense right? But his reason for this struggle was not how he would die but how he would live. Paul wanted to stay on earth so he could go on sharing the gospel. But he also wanted to die and be in the full presence of Jesus Christ. So Paul settled in his mind that while he was here he would invest all his strength to one thing....making Christ known. To die was not a fear for Paul. I'm sure he wasn't 100% fine with it but he 100% accepted this reality and embraced the will of God. **Question** – what are you teaching and how are you embracing life with Christ? Is there depth, urgency, and purpose or is life just a random thing?

MEET & GREET

September 20th – following AM Service
(In the Café)

come enjoy some coffee and/or donuts.

On **Sunday, September 20th**, we'll have our Rock Meet & Greet. The Meet & Greet is a simple time for us as a Youth Ministry to make ourselves available to students and parents. We realize that not all the students of our church are connected and not all the parents of RRBC know we exist or what we're about. So we hope to connect. We hope to meet you and answer any questions. We hope to let you know we're for each family of students in our church.

One simple reason for our Meet & Greet is to ensure we have your correct information. So take the time to fill out a card and help us keep our contact information up to date. We love to email you as parents. Without your email this is difficult!

We'll have a ministry guide for you to take home and read. It gives an idea of our end goal as a ministry and then some specific ways we hope to reach this end. This guide will also have some dates and specifics for the 2015-2016 year.

ALSO during our Meet & Greet we offer discounts for our upcoming trips, two in particular. Anyone placing a deposit for our winter retreat and summer camp will receive discounts.

- For **Refuel** (MLK Weekend) you receive a \$10 discount with a \$20 deposit.
- For **Summer Camp** you will receive a \$20 discount with a \$20 deposit.

This discount will be good for this day only. Yes, if you bring it back that evening to church that will count. After the Meet & Greet day the regular price will be reflected. So hopefully you'll drop by and see us and make your deposit on these two amazing trips. If you're not sure about these trips take some time to discuss them with our leaders who would love to meet and talk with you.

So we hope to see you at Meet & Greet! Stop by and at least say hello!