



**Sunday:**

Sunday School – 9:45 am

Worship – 10:45 am

**Wednesday:**

The Rock Wednesday – 6:45pm

**BIG EVENTS:**

Meet & Greet – September 20<sup>th</sup>

Refuel – MLK Weekend 2016

DNOW – (early Spring)

Summer Camp – June 2016

## Upcoming Events:

### **TONIGHT – JOHN 15 (Abide)**

### **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 (43 Student Spots left)- - -**

place a deposit by September 20<sup>th</sup> for a \$20 discount and to be on the official list

**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](http://therocksm.org)  
open the .pdf file in iBooks or kindle and work away, work away.

***the moment of truth....***

You've had a moment of truth. They all look a bit different but in the end you are called out on something you have said. I've been there and you've been there.

Third Grade, Mrs Maughan's class, 1982. My friends and I had a neighborhood clubhouse. It was deep in the woods and to us was a getaway that Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn would be glad to call home. So we decided we would run away from the struggles of life that most hard working third grade students have. We were tired of the bad meals, chores, school work, and responsibility that prepare us for life. We wanted candy, games, and no baths. So one day at recess we carried out our plan. We would wait for one of the better kickers to kick, we were playing kickball, and then when he hit it in the woods we'd volunteer to get it. We'd throw the ball out but never return. The teachers were on the bench, not watching and hear comes Matt Eubanks, thunderfoot. He boomed it into the woods and there we went. All three of us gathered around the ball. This was it, the moment of truth. Would we go? Would we throw the ball and then take off?

Fifth grade, Mrs. Rayburn's class, 1984. We loved kickball and I love diving. It had rained that day and recess was on the verge of being canned. We begged to go out and the teacher obliged with one request, no diving or sliding. Well I was known for my diving and sliding. I was challenged really. Matt, Brian, Kenny, and all the guys said I wouldn't do it....said I wouldn't slide into home. One problem, home was covered with water. I told them I'd not only slide but I'd go Pete Rose into that thing. A "Pete Rose" means head first. It's my turn to kick and I boom it. I rounded first, then second and was headed for third. Truth be known I should have stopped at third and probably tagged out there but I kept going, headed for home. This was it, the moment of truth. Mrs. Rayburn knew what I was doing...she was smart, I was not. No turning back now, here I go, the moment of truth. Do I veer off and save my rear end or go for it and save my reputation?

We all have moment of truth. This was Paul's moment of truth. You remember what he said in chapter 20 and really in all of his teaching? He was firm, he was solid, he was not turning back. But this was it...the moment of truth. When Paul arrives in Jerusalem he is met with all kinds of questioning and ridicule. The leaders there require him to take part in a purification process to ensure he has not lost his faith of his mind, he obliges. At the end of this purification process he is attacked....by attack I mean "attacked." This is it...the moment of truth. At the end of the chapter Paul requested to speak and was granted permission. Tomorrow we learn how Paul would respond. Would he coward down or speak truth like he claimed he would and really like he has done since meeting Christ?

Have you had a moment of truth in your faith? We often have several, maybe even every day. These are moments where we are required to not only speak of our faith but provide action, proof. Do we follow Christ in word or is there action?

I pray we all stand firm and when the moment of truth comes we shine!

***the moment of truth part duex.....***

Paul was in the presence of Jews. They believed in God but did not accept that Jesus was the son of God. These were the very people that sent Jesus to the cross. Of course we realize that our sin was the reason Jesus went to the cross.

So Paul is here because of his identification with Christ. But he had a way out. He could simply say that it was a mistake and that he was just like them. The moment of truth had arrived and now Paul would speak.

Your testimony is a story of how one comes to Christ. It typically shares of your life before Christ, you coming to know Christ and your life after Christ. This is what Paul shares as he is finally able to speak.

**Before Christ – w. 3-5**

A Jew, a persecutor of “The Way.” Paul was standing firm that the church was a people who needed to be destroyed. He was there when Stephen was stoned.

**Meeting Christ – w. 6-16**

Christ came, sin was forgiven, a new life was given.

**After Christ – w. 17-21**

A new person with a new mission. Rather than destroying the church Paul would now build and strengthen the church. His purpose was simple; Christ in life and Christ in death. The gospel was central and this purpose would consume him.

Obviously the Jews didn't accept this. In the middle of him speaking they were finished listening. They ordered him to be beaten. This was torture. This was that spy movie scene where they're trying to get information out of someone. But just as they began Paul stunned everyone. Paul was a Jew and it was illegal for a Jew to receive this punishment. Remember Paul has shaved his head in this purification process. This along with his teaching had them confused. But upon learning of Him being a Jew they immediately stopped and prepared to send Paul to Rome.

Paul would get to finish his story and the audience would multiply. God was not finished with Paul yet it appears. Lesson learned? Speak early and often of your relationship with Christ. It is truly the only thing that is worth sharing. There are many good things in life we can talk about but in the end there is one that is most important. Take time to learn more, study more, share more, live in a way that shows Christ more.

Paul is a great example to us but he is not the ultimate example, Christ is this. Christ gives us life and boldness to live a life that shows Him as ultimate. Life gets tough but in the midst of this Christ is worthy and He is there!

Don't back down – stand firm – know Christ and follow Him above all!

## **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!



## **an opportunity...**

Paul is given an opportunity to speak truth. Really Paul knew he eventual fate but that wouldn't stop him from using every opportunity to speak Christ.

We need to see what God is doing here and how God is faithful in the midst of suffering. God wasn't hidden from what was going on in Paul's life. God is not hidden from what is going on in your life. God is in control and allow things to happen but even in the midst of the lowest of low God is in control and use these things for His glory. We cannot forget this fact.

In the midst of this moment Paul is certain of some things and even gets a little upset/angry in the process of communicating his heart and story.

## **God is before all:**

There was no doubt that the one who had authority in Paul's life was God. The high priest did not take this well. He straight up ordered that Paul be smacked. Paul's anger came out in verse 3, it's pretty comical but very true.

The struggle was this.....man was attempting to replace God. Have you ever done this? Have you ever determined in your heart that you knew better? Have you ever wanted more attention or credibility to be placed on your words rather than Gods? Be careful how you answer because there is great truth and conviction here.

This whole storyline is happening in accordance to what God desires to happen. Think for a second about the flow of Scripture. Where do we see and read that life was grand from an earthly perspective? Where do we get this thinking that this life is supposed to be so fun and enjoyable and full of earthly happiness?

We are on a mission right? Ask someone in our military about their missions? Are they full of fun or are they filled with a purpose?

I'm not saying that we can't have fun. What I am saying is that this life is much more than it being filled with great memories but rather to be spent on fulfilling the purpose given by God to make Him known.

Later than night Paul is encouraged but also reminded that what he just shared but also be shared in Rome. Rome would be the final destination. The battle was not over for Paul. Paul knew this and would continue to press on.

To live is Christ and to die is gain.

How are you being spent? How do you view this life?

Are you taking courage in the middle of all the junk, trials, and struggles you face?

What makes life good? What makes it joyful? What causes us to want to wake up and live out this day? I pray beneath all our answers is our love for God.



**they just won't stop....**

Have you ever had someone who was just out to get you? I mean they try non-stop to trap you or get you in trouble or possibly just ruin your life? Ever had that person?

Paul did and the reason they had it out for him was a great reason really. Paul stood firm on the gospel of Jesus Christ. This led to some troubles and hot pursuits.

But the heart of all we read today is this:

God will never lead you where His grace will not keep you.

You will not be caught or finished until God says so. God is sovereign. This means God is in full control. We can't jinx Him or cause Him to change His mind.

God wills and acts and no one can reverse that.

This means that we can walk through life confident that as we walk in His will we are perfectly safe. It doesn't mean we won't have troubles or trials but it does mean He will see us through these as we seek Him.

This may not comfort you if you think following God brings a trouble free life. It will comfort you if you know the one thing that changes it all; Christ.

This means as I walk through the school halls I can have confidence that Christ is with me, in me, and for me.

Paul was being harassed and hunted down but God was still in control. God will provide a way. Just like He did with Christ to cover our sin God never stops pursuing.

This is good news. Again, a proper view of Scripture helps us with this.

If our thinking is life with Christ is like a vacation we will get discouraged at every turn. Our mindset can't be this way. Our mindset must be that we are on mission. God has saved us through Christ for the purpose of being in a relationship with Him and then inviting others into this same relationship.

Heaven is long, like really long. Heaven is our final destination. Earth is not meant to be where your joy is complete....that is Heaven.....Jesus....eternity with Him!

Spring Break 2014 found me in an excited state. We were headed to Colorado to enjoy some snow skiing. I was so excited about this. We flew Southwest Airlines which does their seating arrangements a bit different. They had a first come, first serve deal. I was the last one on the plane, literally. I was used to having an assigned seat. Not so this time. When I looked over the plane I quickly realized this was a full flight, not good. I look at the one seat open and this made things worse. End of story, I spent half the flight walking the aisle and the other half leaning up in my seat because I couldn't lean back....MISERABLE. The one hope....Colorado. The flight was only 4 hours, Colorado 5 days. I survived.

The point is this. Why dwell so much on happiness here when we have all of eternity to experience true joy. Yes we have fun here, yes we experience joy while here but nothing can compare to being in heaven, with Jesus, forever.

**Be encouraged!**



**your turn.....**

*Today is a bit different. I want you to simply read the text and respond.*

I think you know what's going on in the story, if you've been reading.

**So read chapter 4.**

What's going on?

What questions do you have?

What is the main idea?

What is the application?

What does God want me to know?

What does God want me to do?

Does this help me learn anything about God, Jesus, Me?

How would this be helpful for me? Why do I need to read this?

Don't be scared....just read and respond?

---

On Another note. Pray for Andrew and I today as we continue to teach the leaders in the La Esperanza community. These men are hungry for the Word of God and we have the privilege of teaching them. This is scary because they hang on every word and we often times feel inadequate. So pray God strengthens us and we keep the main thing the main thing.

# MEET & GREET

September 20<sup>th</sup> – following AM Service  
(In the Café)

come enjoy some coffee and/or donuts.

On **Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**, 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!