



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 – The BIBLE (Abide continues)

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 20th 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!



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.

the evidence of abiding is....

The past 2 weeks we've kicked off our new year; ABIDE. We've seen the theme and have been able to dig into it a bit. Last night we concentrated on The Bible itself. What we're hoping is that we get serious about getting in the Word and then actually get in it. If this happens the Word will get in us...we will shine bright. The Word is too powerful to be contained. It's like sour candy...it's impossible to eat it and not make some expression right? So it's really impossible to read the Word and apply it and it not make an impact in our life and world. So if I'm giving myself to this Word I need to be able to trust it. Hopefully last night was a help to you.

But take this thought to what's going on in Acts. Consider what they had to lean on. They had the Old Testament which talked about the law, prophecies of Christ and really led the reader to the next big thing: Christ. The New Testament was in the process of being written and lived out. They were abiding in Christ before abiding was even cool or known. They were learning and walking this out. Jesus had just years prior introduced this in John 15. So now we read Acts with the lens of 'abiding in Christ' fresh on our minds. We see how they trusted and lean on and gave themselves to the Word of God. Written word (Bible) and living word (Christ).

So as we come to the end of Acts we begin to transition to a bigger view of Scripture. Think of it this way. As we dive into Acts we're really taking a surface level view of Scripture. This would be like being in front of your house, there you are at surface level. If you climb in a tree you see a different view right? Little further away. But if you continued going up you saw more of the surroundings right. Your view is not just of your house but of your neighborhood or community or city. The further up you went the more you'd see of the surrounding and less you'd actually see of your house.

So we've been at a surface level view. Right in front of Acts and even inside the house, the book. Beginning next Wednesday we get in our plane, not really, but we go way up and get a big view of The Bible. What's the main story of the Bible? We know there are tons of specific points: Obey your parents, be kind, abide, stand firm. But ultimately what is the point of this book? We hope to get this by going up and looking down. We will cover high points as we go left to right. During the week, in our devotions we'll swoop down for some of this other points. They are not lesser because they help tie in and support this main message. But we simply want to understand this book we are getting into and inviting to get into us.

Back to Acts....we've come down to the streets of Jerusalem. Paul is abiding in Christ isn't he? Do we see fruit from his life? Do we see evidence that Paul's life is hidden in Christ?

Read the chapter and think: Where do I see that Paul is abiding in Christ?

This chapter mainly deals with a conversation regarding Paul, so look deep! How do I see this? Then turn that question to yourself.

Where do I see evidence that I'm abiding in Christ?

Have or am I trust in the gospel? Am I sharing the great news of the gospel?

Do I trust God's word? Do I live God's Word? Is my home found in Christ?

**life is really simple...**

Do you ever fret or worry over the details of your future. There is no doubt that some of you are a bit frantic over the what's, where's and how's of your future. You go into cold sweats when people begin discussing your future. It is difficult and potentially damaging to us. But I want to encourage you in the Word today.

The Scene -

We know Paul's story. He is on his way to Rome to be judge. He hasn't done anything worthy of death or punishing but here he stands. He has resolved in his heart to please God alone. He is abiding in Christ, the Word is in him and each time he is squeezed Christ, the Word, comes out. So Paul plainly shares with the council and rulers what he has done. That's a tough question for too isn't it? We must consider this ourselves; what have we done? What are we doing?

Only this life twill soon be past
only what's done for Christ will last.

The Answer -

Paul gives His answer and in this answer we see a couple things.

- 1. Evidence of a life that is abiding in Christ.** Paul's mission was clear. His purpose was never in doubt once He met Christ. Christ was the answer. Look back at w. 15-20. It was clear for Paul!
- 2. The message of the Bible from Genesis 3 to now:** God's love to move people out of darkness and into His marvelous light. Paul would later teach this in Colossians.
- 3. The purpose is a mixture of the two.** We take 1 and from that we seek to abide in Christ. As we abide in Christ we then take 2 and the overflow or fruit is that we are communicating God's message. The message is simple in that God loves humanity and desires for all people to move from the dark to the light. So we take this on as our mission and purpose in life.

The specifics of how I work out this mission and purpose are found in our desires and passions of life. God may make this evident to us but He doesn't have one occupation we must do or we've blown it. God desires for us to abide in His son right? This is the task then, to tell others about His life. To live a life that point to the Son. To continually pursue relationships with others that may eventually lead them to coming to Christ, moving from darkness to light.

My life's purpose is found in verse 20. I declare to people with my life and mouth that they should repent, turn to God and then live a life that shows I've been changed.

However you work this out with college, marriage, career and retirement is the freedom God has given. So go and live but as you do take the name of Jesus with you

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!



when things get bad...

People handle tough situations differently. I think you can really learn a lot about a person by watching them in trials or tough situations. I think you find out what people are really trusting in by how they respond to these issues.

Paul is still headed to Rome. Of course the skies were left for the birds at this point in history so they took a ship...pre Titanic as well. On their way they encountered some storms and things got dicey, rough!

You ever been on the seas in a storm? I have, if you count Lake Carroll as the high seas. If you would have seen the little boat I was in you'd laugh and then feel my pain. It was a beautiful day. I was confident in my little boat while the sun was shining but when a storm blew in that feeling changed, drastically. Lake Carroll is not a huge lake but once that wind and rain and lightning came it seem like I was in the Pacific Ocean. I'd never seen white caps and waves on such a small body of water. I was scared and not too confident in my little boat. I might add I was about a 30 minutes paddle from my truck. Going against the wind and into the white caps I journeyed on. I found my true feelings about my boat real quick at that point.

My thinking about this vessel of mind in the sun and in the storms were different. That's how we view life sometimes isn't it? Life is good when the sun is out or things are going well but then life stinks when storms come or when things aren't so well.

Is this healthy? It's kind of schizophrenic right? I mean it's like we're two different people sometimes. Paul's companions were a bit like me on Lake Carroll. They were freaking out and throwing stuff off the boat. But Paul was there, solid. I'm sure he didn't want to drown but he remained calm.

This is the point; the condition of life cannot determine our joy or attitude. Our identity, peace, attitude, joy and happiness is found in Christ. This is a result of abiding in Christ right?

It doesn't mean we love it when storms come but it means we are able to stand firm in the storm. We don't pray for storms to come but rather pray for Christ to remain our strength, hope, joy and end. I'd rather be in a boat on a sunny day, I wouldn't choose a stormy day to go out. But I'm now prepared for that storm to come. I know my boat can handle it. Am I confident Christ is enough? Do I trust that Christ is able to see me through and ultimately be my life, storms or sun?

Another think to think about is the people on the boat. They're watching you. If you truly abide in Christ they see this and know this and will watch you when the storms come. You can be a testimony to God's grace by holding on to Him, even in the storm. I pray we stand firm and lean on Him. How's that going for you?



the end... or beginning...

The end of Acts is perfect. We see peace for Paul after all he's been through. There's really not been much we've seen other than this peace. It's been a journey for sure but one we take heart in as we read.

We left Paul on a ship yesterday and through this chapter we see that he eventually did end up in Rome after spending 3 months on an island called Malta. This is where they eventually shipwrecked. Paul would remain in prison for the next 2 years. During these 2 years Paul would write Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. We're not told in Scripture what happened next but we do know there was a second prison sentence. But whatever happened we know one thing; Paul would be preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern Jesus Christ with all confidence. This is how Acts end.

In spite of everything that has happened Paul finally finds himself under house arrest in a house he rented finally able to rest. But his rest is filled with people coming to talk with him and be taught by him and to simply hear him or possibly debate with him.

The part that strikes me is that word "confidence." It really goes back to yesterday for me. Paul never allowed the circumstances and situations of this world determine his attitude and thinking of eternity, purpose and joy. Paul was secure in Christ. I want to be sure we say this often; He ABIDED in Christ. So really peace, joy, certainty, and confidence are all fruits, results of a life that is abiding in Christ.

This wasn't the end for Paul...his life went on. Yes, Paul would eventually be killed for his stand for Christ. But even if he wasn't killed he would have died right? Death comes to everyone. We know from later letters that Paul's desire was Christ either way, in life or death. Paul viewed life this way; if I live I live for Christ and if I die I will be with Christ. Paul's mindset was that he was a winner either way. His joy and hope were found in Christ.

This is sounding like a record that is stuck right? Go as your parents what a record is and how would get stuck and then come back and continue.

But really the message of the Bible carries the message. Man can't but God can. God created, man sinned, man tries to fix it but man can't, God can. We mess up, we try to fix it, heal it, make it better but we can't, God can.

Life is found when we find Christ. So our hope is that we constantly seek Christ. Paul is a great example but he is not the ultimate example, Christ is.

So as we finish up Acts we find that we are continually challenged to be simple in our approach to life. We abide in Christ and allow Him to become our life.



Tonight....

Tonight we have this amazing opportunity to gather together in the presence of God and in the name of Jesus Christ. For some this is not a big thing but for others it is the driving force and motivation to face the week. It is a special thing and something we need in life. We need fellowship around the Word of God. We need encouragement. What we do when we meet matters. We can't simply come together and allow us to be the main focus. We aren't cool enough, fun enough, smart enough, able enough to provide anything more than human flattery and wisdom. We need more!

Psalm 19 is a great chapter on the magnificence of God. Allow it to be to you a reminder of what we should lift up and magnify when we gather at the Rock tonight.

For some of you today is a long day. School, practice, church, homework and hopefully some food along the way is a typical Wednesday for most of you. So we realize you being here, at church, is a big deal. You communicate that fact by your attendance. So most of you understand the worth of what we're doing and who we're lifting high. But allow Psalm 19 to be a reminder, a shot of motivation or energy to be added in to the fire that is raging in your heart.

Come tonight with a sense of urgency and expectancy as if you know God is going to move. Come prepared to begin looking at the most beautiful story in the world. The story of God, of love, hope, peace, and joy.

As you read maybe you can consider a couple of questions in light of some things.

God's creation continuously declares His glory – verse 1

Where am I in fulfilling my purpose, as God's creation, of glorifying Him? What does it mean, look like to glorify God?

The Word of God's word is powerful– verse 7-11

Am I allowing the Word of God to work in my life? Do I cherish it, trust it, lean on it?

The God of this Word is able – verse 12-14

There is no other who is able to save me, cleanse me, judge me, understand me, forgive me, strengthen me or cause me to be acceptable other than God.

So today, as we hope to everyday, let's gather our thoughts on this amazing God and prepare to come tonight to worship and honor Him. May he be glorified in our lives!

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!