



Sunday:

Sunday School – 9:45 am

Worship – 10:45 am

Wednesday:

The Rock Wednesday – 6:45pm

BIG EVENTS:

Meet & Greet – September 27th

Refuel – MLK Weekend 2016

DNOW – (early Spring)

Summer Camp – June 2016

Upcoming Events:

TONIGHT – The Story Begins (Genesis 1:11)

- - - REFUEL – MLK WEEKEND (43 Student Spots left) - - -

place a deposit by September 27th for a \$20 discount and to be on the official list
SIGN UP AT THE CHALKBOARD IN THE BACK OF THE ROCK.

Keep in mind that to officially be on the list we need a deposit of \$20.
Until then the names give us an idea but it's first pay, first serve.

Main Idea: In Spite of sin God would not **(and will not)** give up on His sinful creation.

We learn 3 big truths from Genesis 1-11

1. God as Creator has ultimate authority in this world. (1:1)
2. God is a God of new beginnings. (3:15, 9:1)
3. God is faithful and present even in the midst of confusion (11)

other scriptures: *Psalm 19, Psalm 24, Colossians 1:15-20*

So what is your response to this Creator God and his response to sin?

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
PS . 61 : 2

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

according to...

Last night we began our journey through the Bible. It's going to be a long road but honestly not as long as it should or could be. Imagine all that is actually in the Bible. All the details, stories, truths, promises, prophecies, teachings of Christ, and truths about God would take a lifetime to teach, understand and apply. So really our lives are spent on getting in this BOOK. So this year we won't come close to uncovering every stone and presenting every truth. But what we do want to do is to ensure we understand it's message. What is the Bible saying and to what is it pointing?

So this year we will hit these high points and concentrate on the response of God to His creation being filled with sin. How would God respond when that which He created falls away from Him? That's the theme we want to pursue and follow. During the week, in our devotions, we'll look at the "in betweens." These are important pieces that connect the parts of the story. So we gain a greater understanding of the whole while also reading and gaining wisdom from the in between stuff. It's going to be fun and I hope you stick with it as we get in the Word.

Genesis 1 is a great reminder of God as Creator. So many times we forget this don't we? We see this fact challenged daily and many of you see this forgotten in your science class. Make a statement about God creating everything from nothing and see what the response is. But here's the deal. We are not responsible for how people accept what we believe. We are responsible for what we believe and how that affects our lives. So we must be firm in our belief and not allow the pressure from culture or even our classes to sway our beliefs. We must trust that God is the ultimate authority and Creator God.

Read Genesis 1 and as you read focus on two words; according to. These two words help us see that this God who is the ultimate authority has declared what each thing should be and what role they will play in His creation. In other words....God assigned the roles.

You may not like this. Many people today do not like this. But here's the deal; this is not our story. This is God's story and He has the right to do anything He desires. I'm about to go to a birthday luncheon. I don't get to pick where we go. This right to pick belongs to the birthday person. They picked Little Hawaiian and I don't like that place. But I'll go anyway and pay money for food I don't like.

If God were not Creator we wouldn't be expected to accept our role or to obey His commands or respect His desires but in the end He is Creator.

We don't have a problem accepting a cars role do we? I've never considered flying a car or inviting a horse into my house to chill out. I would never invite a snake over for dinner or even use a fork for a baseball glove. But how is it that I sometimes redefine a role established by God, the Creator, who has all authority.

So maybe I begin my day today embracing God as Creator and obeying His desire and plan for my life rather than rejecting it and walking my own way.

**a closer look...**

Genesis 2 is interesting and a bit confusing. If you didn't read it I would go ahead and take the time to read the entire chapter....soak it in!

Earlier I said chapter 2 can be confusing. I think it can be confusing because it sounds like something we've already read in chapter 1. So why do we need chapter 2? Chapter 2 is a closer look at the creating work of man and woman. Chapter 2 always begins by showing us that God rested on the 7th day.

Above all of the created beings we, man and woman, stand alone. No other part of God's creation would be given such a description, attention or roles. In chapter 1 we see that we are created in His image and for His image. Chapter 2 gives us more information on this Creator God and man's first opportunity to obey it's Creator.

About God -

Within chapter 2 look specifically at verses 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 15, 18, 21, 22.

Within these verses you see a pattern, something that appears in each of them.

Actually you see two individual things that appear in each verse.

1. LORD GOD - This is to say He is **Yahwey Elohim**. That's Hebrew. Notice how many times it says this? Each time we see the name of God in the Hebrew Old Testament we would see a specific name. It wouldn't just say "GOD." In english, a very simple language, we just don't get that specific. So it's neat to see that "LORD GOD" is communicating that God is not only the Creator God, ruler of everything, but He is also a covenant God. One who would make and keep promises.

2. Action - You see action after the LORD GOD. Each time LORD GOD appears it's followed by something He did. He made, had not caused, formed, planted, made, took, said, caused, had taken....God was doing this work. We can't move past a simple thing but must continually come back to the reality that this is God's work.

About Man -

We also see in chapter 2 that man is given his first task and opportunity to obey God. That sounds negative doesn't it? That we are to obey God. We have a serious issue with submission sometimes. But we must continually be reminded that God first loved us and this is His story, His creation. Why would He set us up for failure? Why would we not comply? Obey? I like to think about it like this; God as Creator knows best and has given the law and His commandments to follow as a way to protect us and ensure we're fully satisfied in Him. Example....your parents love you....they want you to obey them because believe it or not, they want what's best for you. Sometimes they abuse that right? But God will never abuse that. So the next time your parents say don't jump off the house, just listen and obey.

The two things man is given are simple; Work and Keep, Don't eat off this tree. These aren't tough....but we all know how that turned out.

What's the end? WE CAN TRUST AND OBEY GOD. Again, why wouldn't we?

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 got nasty...

Friday we looked at Genesis 2 and we saw that man had two simple responsibilities. One we didn't mention was to simply enjoy the creation of God. But the two we mentioned were this: Work & keep the garden (manage) and then don't eat off of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 3:1-7 shows us that they didn't listen to the second one. They ate. They were tricked yes but they doubted God and eventually disobeyed God. Satan attacked them the same way he attacks now. He attacks by convincing us that God is mean and that He doesn't want us to be like Him. Satan tries to put us up against God by questioning Him and His ways.

You've been there right? Something has happened and you question why God could allow it to happen? There are a ton of sad things that have happened in our lifetime. But in spite of these things we trust God. It isn't easy but we know we can trust Him.

Satan knows we are weak and his first attack on humanity was to question God. You can be sure he will use this tactic against us as well. But it was man who disobeyed and when this happens verse 7 says "there eyes were opened."

What does this mean? It means they could see they were naked....that's bad....but the deeper meaning was that reality were exposed. Rather than life being innocent and perfect life was now flawed.

God comes to them and things get real. How would God respond knowing His creation disobeyed? This should be very interesting to us because don't we mess up daily? Don't we miss the mark daily? How has and will God respond to us?

Genesis 3:15 is the first mention of the gospel in the Bible. It's doesn't say the word Gospel or even Jesus or anything about a cross but the language used shows us what God is planning. It's also helpful that we the entire story in front of us and we can see it play itself out throughout history.

God is speaking to the serpent, Satan. He is really dealing with sin here and the one who first challenged Him and His authority. His creation would receive hope but this enemy, Satan, would receive something too!

Read Genesis 3:15 again.

"I will put enmity between you and the woman" **distance, strife, contention**

"between your offspring and her offspring" **offspring is a line, people, Jesus/Satan**

"he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel"

Jesus will have the victory but Satan will get in a couple of blows.

What happens is this....we follow this line of Adam and see the story play out.

For now it's a dark time but we also see this promise of hope from God.

When things turn nasty we can trust God. So our response is to trust and obey.



the end... or beginning...

When we get to Genesis 6 time has really moved on and God's creation was in a mess. They ways of God really never clicked. The sin of Adam and Eve was a huge problem as their offspring fell deeper and deeper into the pit. The sin of Genesis 3 created a problem for all of us. When we think of newborn babies we see cuteness. Some smell diapers and spit up but for the most part we see cute. But there is a side of them we often deny; the sinful side. When that baby comes out they come out with a sinful nature. That means we don't have to be taught to sin...we do this naturally. So we all have the genes of Adam & Eve but we also sin by choice don't we? So as we fast forward through Genesis 4 & 5 we go through many, many years. We eventually get to Noah.

Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord (Genesis 6:8).

But what was the condition of the rest of the world? Look at Genesis 6:5-7
Bad right?

But rather than wiping out everything God chose to continue His creation and kingdom through Noah, the only righteous one of the bunch.

We see the first covenant between man and God in verse 18.
God will spare the world through Noah and his family.

This covenant is big but a bigger one is coming.
We must see that there is great judgment on sin.

Sometimes your parents say they're going to discipline you if you do something and then you do it and they don't do anything....right? That's a messed up sentence I know but it's also messed up parenting. But I do it too. Some of you have parents that are opposite I'm sure....they mean what they say and say what they mean. If they say you're getting discipline you know what's coming.

God is this way....If He says something He means it and will see it through.
We will never change the heart of God but we can move it and allow our intentions and thoughts to be known and heard.

At the end of the flood God made a promise....read it in Genesis 8:20-22.
This would leave the world with another single family to replenish the earth.

But things would get worse again. God's creation would not respond well and soon we would find ourselves back where we began....in a mess.

But God had a plan. He's always had a plan.

Question - Have you ever tried to help someone only to find the best way to show them was to let them mess up a few times and then they would eventually listen to you? Yep....but sometimes we find some people who have so much pride they never will listen right? They'd rather lose than admit you're right.

So where does this leave us?

it should leave us thanking God that in spite of His creation continually turning their backs on Him, He responds with love. There is judgment, but never without hope.

THANK GOD FOR HOPE!



really....again....

Fast forward to Genesis 11. We're headed for the beginning of the Covenant but we're stuck in this nasty pattern of God's creation continually turning their backs on Him. Sad news is this....this never really stops.

So now Noah is gone and the generations that follow him are deep in sin. There are some who are following Him and one in particular (that's tonight's sermon).

For now let's concentrate on the whole, the entire group of people living on the earth. Genesis 11:1 says the whole earth had one language and words. As these people begin to wander to different areas they settled in a place called Shinar (11:2).

The people began to build a tower, crazy! Even crazier was the reason for their building; verse 4.

So again we see a people who were attempting to obtain God's place. I think that's what it means by "the top being in the heavens." They were trying to be equal to God. God knew they wouldn't stop so His intervention was to scatter them and to confuse them a bit by creating the different languages and eventually people groups.

There is a bigger plan here....again, it's coming tonight....but for now we see this new beginning, again. The place would now be called Babel.

Ever heard someone babble on and on about something and their words become this Charlie Brown teacher form of speech no one can understand. Well we call this babble and here is where that saying comes from, Babel.

The Point?

Man will never stop trying to become God. The Mormons base much of what they believe on the hope of becoming a god. Christianity believes that through Christ we can become a child of God but we believe no one will ever become God or even like Him. We are His image, created in this way to reflect His image.

We are only as important as we are shiny. When we are clean, holy, shiny we reflect Him greater. This is our most important task in life. To reflect Him.

The people of Shinar, or Babel, were dirty. Rather than reflecting God they were trying to compete with Him. May we remember this and not try this out. Don't compete with God because you'll lose. Not because He is mean and a bully but because this is His story, His creation and we are His creations.

Our story and chapter end by introducing a couple, Abram and Sarai. Finally God would act in a way that would unfold His plan that we see work it's way through the Old Testament and ultimately find it's home in Christ. For now we wait and as we wait we thank God for His patience with us...a dirty people.

MEET & GREET

September 27th – following AM Service
(In the Café & Upstairs)

On **Sunday, September 27th**, 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!

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!