



Sunday:

Sunday School – 9:45 am

Worship – 10:45 am

Wednesday:

The Rock Wednesday – 6:45pm

BIG EVENTS:

One day Mission to Atlanta – October 17th

Outdoor Movie Night – TBA

Hallelujah Night – October 31st

BONFIRE - November

Refuel – MLK Weekend 2016

DNOW – (early Spring)

Summer Camp – June 2016

Upcoming Events:

TONIGHT – The Covenant Begins (Genesis 12-50)

One day Mission to Atlanta – October 17th

Outdoor Movie Night – TBA

Hallelujah Night – October 31st

- - - REFUEL – MLK WEEKEND (23 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.

Main Idea: Though we may not know how God is working we must always know that He IS working

Remember: He is always working in His creation for His glory.

4 key figures from Genesis 12-50

1. Abraham – The father of a great nation
2. Isaac – a reminder that God is faithful to His promise
3. Jacob – a reminder that God works in spite of our sin
4. Joseph – God is working in spite of what we see

other scriptures: Romans 8:28

Are you trusting God?

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!





So Abram went...

When you read the Old Testament the danger is to only see moral lessons rather than the marvelous acts and faithfulness of God. But it's also important to see the great faith of men like Abraham along the way. God is the hero of any text. Without His faithfulness, love and grace we are all doomed. But it's also good to learn from heroes of the faith; people we can look to and learn from as we seek to also live a life that honors God.

The Tower of Babel left the world in a frenzy. Everyone had gone separate paths and had begun to settle within the different family groups. The Bible specifically follows one family. If you follow the generations of Shem listed in Genesis 11:10-26 you see that much time passed from Babel to Abraham. According to the genealogy it was about 230 years after Babel that Abraham came on the scene. One thing to see here is that this line that we need to watch from Genesis 3:15 went from Noah to Shem and from Shem to Abraham. A nice side note.

So Genesis 12 begins with God calling Abram (Abraham) to go from the known to the unknown.

Here is where it can get tricky. Do we honor the God who is calling and is making promises or do we honor the man who is being called when he actually follows?

We must honor God above all right? Right! God is the hero but Abram has a place in history and we look to his faithfulness to God as a lesson to us.

All throughout the account of Genesis we see the faithfulness of God. God continually makes promises to His people and it His people who continually turn their back on God. Even in the midst of following God they still stumble. This is a product of sin right? Right!

But here in Genesis 12 we see yet another promise from God; I will give you this land and I will bless those who bless you and I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you.

Few have kept their end of the bargain when dealing with God and His promises. Would Abram follow God or would he, like so many before Him, fail and rebel?

From this text we see Abram is off to a good start; "So Abram went,"

But let's bring this home. How hard is it for us to be faithful to God? Has God not kept the promises He has made? Why would we not trust and follow Him? What is standing in the way of that? Over and over again God has shown His great love and faithfulness to us. And while this story is all about Him isn't there a place for us to follow? Isn't there responsibility in this story for us?

Yes, there is and it's all centered around our faith and our trust in God. May we show this faith and trust today as we live for His glory.

**only God....**

Have you ever had a God moment? In reality every time we breath is a God moment. Life is miracle right? But there are moments in our life where things happen and there is only one explanation. I've been on several mission trips and have had many things happen in my life where I had to stop and thank God because what had just happened only could have been accomplished by Him. Ever been there? Sarai has.

Our verse today is a promise from God to make Abrams offspring, or descendants, as dust of the earth. God is saying a lot of people will come from this line of Abraham. There is a problem in this situation though. Sarai is barren. You may not be totally clear on what that means so let me help you out. To be barren is to be empty....in Sarai's case it meant that she could not have children. See the problem?

God would continually remind Abram of this promise. Read Gen. 15: 1-6.

The fact that this would one day be true only points to God's faithfulness to keep His promises. Sarai did not do anything to fix her problem right? No! She actually went outside of God to provide a remedy. She had her servant sleep with her husband in hopes of producing a child. We do this right? We attempt to handle things ourselves rather than relying on God to provide?

Side note: IN Genesis 17 God changes Abram's name to Abraham. Why? Because Abraham expressed he was the father of a multitude of nations. This is both good and bad. Good because God spared Abraham and Sarai after they went outside God's protection and promise. They took matters into their own hands. Bad because now rather than one nation, Israel, we would have two.

When Sarah (changed in Gen. 17:15) hears of God's plan in Gen. 18:12 she laughs. Yep, she laughed. But so did Abraham in Gen. 17:17. I don't blame them really. Dude was 90 years old and Sarah was barren. Makes sense they went outside their marriage to produce a child right? Wrong. Rather than trusting God they attempted to handle things themselves. I don't think it's by chance that God said to call their child's name Isaac. Read Genesis 21:1-7.

Anyone want to guess what Isaac means? Yep, He laughs.
Who's laughing now right?

But how often do you and I doubt God? How often do we take matters into our own hands? Time after time I find myself doing the work rather than trusting. Is there responsibility for me in this walk with God? YES! But the majority of this work is me trusting God and leaning on Him.

So today, tonight or whenever you're reading this, trust God. Do your work but don't work outside of His will, strength, power, wisdom and direction.
If God things happen when we follow God what is the result of not following?

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!



crazy...

I've got to admit that Genesis 22 is flat out crazy. Abraham's faith in God is so strong and as a father I'm really amazed by what I just read. Crazy I tell you!

Consider where we've been.

Abraham has heard stories of the garden, of Noah, and how God scattered the people of the earth. He knows God had called him out specifically even to the point that God has told him that he would be the father of a great nation.

Being a father takes having a child right? In this culture a male child. When his wife Sarah is unable to have a child they go a different route but then God says nope, I will bless you and Sarah and you will have a child. Abraham laughs....he then tells his wife Sarah and she laughs.....a little while later Sarah is pregnant and everyone laughs.

So God is faithful right? Yeah man! But then you come to Genesis 22 and doubt sets back in. Confusion creeps in as God asks the unthinkable; God asks Abraham to go and sacrifice this son....his one and only son. The son who would continue the line and be the next offspring of this mighty nation God promised.

But what happens to that promise if Isaac is dead? It's gone right?

This had to be confusing for Abraham. It's still confusing for me.

But Abraham Trusts God and begins the process of taking Isaac up to the spot where the sacrifice would happen. A sacrifice was not uncommon for them. This would happen often so Isaac was actually looking for the lamb. His father would answer in verse 8; God will provide son.

The end of the story is better right? God does provide a lamb

We can't help but look forward in this story can we?

When the promise of God to crush the head of the serpent was tested over and over God came through. When it seemed His creation would ruin His work, God provided. When it seemed God was jeopardizing His plan, God provided. When our lives seemed hopeless and sin was too much and the payment was too much, God provided.

God ultimately provides through Jesus doesn't He? Jesus is the lamb. Jesus is the ultimate expression of God providing all we need.

The line was safe here in Genesis. God's promises were in tact and so today as we live and move we do so knowing that God has never went back on one promise.

Put that in your pipe and smoke it. Well don't smoke just enjoy that moment and worship the One who deserves all praise and glory.



a cup of stew...

We last saw Isaac celebrating the fact that God provided a lamb. Today we see the line God promises continue through Isaac who eventually had two sons: Jacob and Esau. Interesting things going down in this family throughout Genesis. I keep thinking back to the fact that God chooses to use the imperfect. Continually points me back to the hero of the story.

The story begins with a refresh on the lineage (line) of Abraham. It's not mistake why genealogies are mentioned in Scripture. They are important.

Here are some interesting things going on in this chapter:

- **Rebekah, Isaac's wife, is barren.** Sound familiar
- **Rebekah is expecting, twins.** Two nations are in her womb. Esau was the firstborn, he came out first. This would mean he would have the birthright. He would be the one to receive the blessings of his father and God.
- **Esau trades the birthright for stew.** Yep, I said stew. Actually the Bible says stew. Read Gen. 25: 29-34 again.

This is huge really. Again someone is choosing to satisfy their own hunger for something other than what God has provided. Surely his dad Isaac told him the story of how their grandfather Abraham almost sacrificed him. If not for God providing this whole family was toast. Did Esau forget this? Did Esau not see the big picture? What could possibly be going on in his head that he would trade the blessing of God for a cup of stew?

We could ask ourselves the same questions couldn't we?

How could I trade the what God has in store for one night of pleasure?

How often do we set aside what God has for us for something of lesser value?

What did Esau lose really?

Well for one he's known as the one who traded something eternal for something temporary. That's his legacy.

But look at Jacob....he's no angel is he? I mean he practically stole the birthright didn't he? He tricked his dad and his brother. But rather than fighting for it Esau gave it all away from something temporary.

In light of this read these passages:

Exodus 3:6 – Acts 7:32 – Psalm 20:1 – Matthew 22:32

There are more....over 40 references to Jacob being the one God would choose to continue the line that would ultimately lead to Christ.

Esau traded this for stew. When people thought of Jacob they thought of God.

When people thought of Esau they thought of soup.

Crazy question; what do people think about when they hear your name?

That's not completely fair...but it's a possible direction.



the younger brother...

One of the longest sections of Genesis follows the life of Joseph, Jacob's son. The life of Jacob is seen from Genesis 27 to the end of Genesis.

Joseph was the youngest son and the most loved one of the bunch. If you've ever been the youngest you know the struggle. If you've ever been the oldest, or the in between, you also realize the struggle. Struggles here, struggles there, we've got struggles everywhere.

In the midst of this story God changes Jacob's name to Israel....why? God renames Jacob *Israel* (32:28), which loosely means "El (God) fights." Jacob fought with God in Gen. 32 in hopes of receiving the blessing of God. In the history of the nation of Israel, the Lord fought with and for His people. Thus, the children of Israel.

So Israel/Jacob has 12 sons, Joseph is the youngest. What exactly is going on here? Well, read Genesis 37:1-11 and you'll see the tension.

The end result of the brother's anger comes out in w. 12-36. They sold him into slavery. The story of Joseph was not over just yet though!

If we continue following his story throughout the remainder of Genesis we see Joseph rise to great power in the Egyptian Empire. He rose so far he was second in command. God was establishing his man for the right time and place.

You see where the focus is at? It's on God, not man. The lesson here is not don't sell your little brother into slavery or don't wear bright clothes. The lesson is that God works all things for His glory and our good. All we do is trust Him and follow Him.

The story ends with Joseph once again in front of his brothers. If you had time it'd be real good to read Genesis 43-50 to catch the end of this great story.

But it all comes down to one statement that points all the credit and attention to God. Genesis 50:20, "what you meant for evil God meant for good."

The Point?

We'll never fully know the works of God. He is above us and in many ways beyond us. But He has made His plans known to us in large part. We know He desires to know us and empower us to live for His glory.

So though we may not know how He is working we must know and trust that He is working. Romans 8:28 is a great promise of God we must lean on daily.

So today let's walk in confidence knowing that God is working for our good and His glory. Walk it out!

BONFIRE IS COMING

TBA - Sign up sheet coming soon

We hope you'll join us for an opportunity to hang out and gather around a huge fire! We'll have 'smores and other goodies as well as some chill time. More details to come

Outdoor Movie at The Adams Barn

TBA

A MOVIE ON A BARN? Brilliant! We'll be doing this before it gets too cold and will be working out a date soon. So be looking for more information in the next few weeks.

Hallelujah Night

October 31st, 5-7p

Awesome opportunity to serve the community and be on mission. Each SS class will have a booth so see your SS teacher for details and please sign up. It's not very fun to pick up everyone's slack....so help out and do your part.