



Sunday:

Sunday School – 9:30 am

Worship – 10:45 am

Wednesday:

The Rock Wednesday – 6:45pm

BIG EVENTS:

{NEAR}

Hallelujah Night – October 31st

BONFIRE – November 14th

The Family Feast – November 18th

Classy Christmas – December 16th (dressy snazzy)

{FAR}

Refuel – MLK Weekend 2016

DNOW – March 11-13 (tentative)

Summer Camp – June 2016

Main Idea:

God will keep his promise to give Israel rest

How are you responding to this loving, patient and promise keeping 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!



***Being careful to do according to all the law...***

The beginning of this section of Scripture finds a huge shift in what we have known about the story of the Bible so far. The first words of the book of Joshua tell us that Moses is dead! The leader of the nation of Israel is dead. This would have been huge. God's people have been on a journey towards a land that God had promised and they are no doubt ready to be there. Now their leader is dead. Imagine if you are the man for the job! Joshua was. The first nine verses in the book are about God's charge to him as the coming leader of the nation. All that he is to remember and do. The cool thing about this though is that God was very clear and simple as to what he wanted Joshua to lead the people towards. They would get to the land and we will see this happen this week. But in these opening verses we see God's desire that his people keep his Word. The people of God are to be loyal to God. We have been talking about his covenant to us, but there is also the need to remember that the people of God are to be loyal to him as well! This is where these verses come to us clearly.

After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, "Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."` `(Joshua 1:1-9)

Are you careful to do the Word of the Lord? Do you see that as something you are called to? As God's children we are! We must be CAREFUL to keep his Word. This is done in a few ways:

- daily time spent reading and studying God's Word.
- seeking to obey what God's Word says for our lives
- sharing his Word with others as we speak the gospel and talk Scripture

Lets allow the call of God to Joshua to hit us deeply as we think this week about how we live in relation to the Bible! Are we careful to keep it?



Take a minute and read Numbers 13 and then come back and read Joshua 5.

We are in Joshua now and one of the major things that we've seen thus far is that the people of Israel are now in the promised land of Canaan. We can say that this is been a long time coming.

God's people were promised this land back in Genesis and the pages of Scripture have unfolded since then with their longing for this reality. In numbers 13 we see the spies are sent into the promised land to find out what it is all about... What kind of land is it?.....can it be acquired?..... who is there?

The report from the spies in Numbers 13 is split. All the spies think that the land can't be acquired.....that is all but Caleb and Joshua.

Think about all the promises of God, think about all the ways that God provided for his people.....do they really believe that God wasn't going to keep his promise and provide the land?

When we fast-forward the story to Joshua chapter 5 we see that the land has been acquired and that Joshua of all people is leading this nation. You know whose names we don't find.....the other 10 spies.....their faithlessness and distrust in God proved to be their fall.

The question is do we trust God? We have all the promises of God and Scripture to hold to..... we know of all the blessings that he's given in our lives but still too many times we find ourselves questioning his goodness and his faithfulness!

We need to see the example in Numbers 13 and in the book of Joshua as a picture of the faithfulness of God and as a reminder that God will keep his promises and that God will never leave his people!

The question is pretty simple... Will we trust or not?

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!



Our God gives us rest.

As we have already said this week.....this part of the Bible finds the people of Israel on the brink of getting into the promised land. From all that we know about the promised land it was to be a place of rest.

Joshua 1:13 says, "Remember the word that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, saying, 'The Lord your God is providing you a place of rest and will give you this land.'"

This picture of rest that would be in the promised land is a picture of peace.....a place where the children of Israel could live and serve God without distraction. All that they were could be given in efforts to be a people that kept their covenant with God grew in obedience to him.

Notice these other passages in Joshua that point to this rest that God provides for his people:

So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD had spoken to Moses. And Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal allotments. And the land had rest from war.

(Joshua 11:23)

Thus the LORD gave to Israel all the land that he swore to give to their fathers. And they took possession of it, and they settled there. And the LORD gave them rest on every side just as he had sworn to their fathers. Not one of all their enemies had withstood them, for the LORD had given all their enemies into their hands. Not one word of all the good promises that the LORD had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.

(Joshua 21:43-45)

God gives those who are truly his.....rest. This rest looks like many things.....peace, provision, grace.....but we must know that all that God gives us in regards to rest is ultimately so we can know him better. So that we can know him at all!

When God gave rest to the children of Israel by way of the promised land it was not the last time he would give his people rest....it really wasn't even the clearest picture of him giving his people rest. At the cross we see Jesus giving himself for the sins of the world.....why?.....so that man could be reconciled to God....so that man could know God, have peace with God....find REST in God. The work of God is big and ultimately for our good in salvation. **Our God gives us rest.**

See salvation as ultimate rest.....live in Christ.....in the rest God provides.....why is this possible???? Christian, your sins are forgiven! Rejoice.....find REST!



Our God keeps his promises.

In Joshua we see a God who is faithful to keep his promises. We see this in all of the Bible but in Joshua the truth is on clear, full, brilliant, and beautiful display.

Our God keeps his promises.

Do you ever doubt the promises of God. Do you believe what he said.....about salvation? About who you are in Christ? About heaven? About _____? Really.....do you trust the promises of God or do you feel like you are always waiting on God to fail you? How you answer this questions says much about how you will live your life. If we believe the promises of God are true then we will live each day living in light of them as truth.

We will trust God and therefore want to love him and obey him. This is good.

One way I rely on the promises of God is reflect on all of them that I see in Scripture and see how God answered them and I am reminded of his faithfulness in my own life now.

Notice the faithfulness of God in fulfilling all his promises in Joshua:

“Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel.
(Joshua 1:2)

God fulfills his promise of giving Israel the promised!

Thus the LORD gave to Israel all the land that he swore to give to their fathers. And they took possession of it, and they settled there. And the LORD gave them rest on every side just as he had sworn to their fathers. Not one of all their enemies had withstood them, for the LORD had given all their enemies into their hands. Not one word of all the good promises that the LORD had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.
(Joshua 21:43-45)

Israel takes the land and not one promise of God goes unfulfilled!

Live each day in light of the fact that God keeps his promises.

Our God keeps his promises.

Where else in Scripture do you see God keeping his promises.....look to the cross!

How can you live in light of our promise keeping God each day?



Get serious.....

We have seen God do some awesome things in the Book of Joshua. He had fulfilled promises, shown himself faithful, and proved to be the One true God who is working a plan bigger than everything anyone ever imagined. In the last chapter of the book we see Israel committing themselves to God in a new fervor.....you might say they are renewing their commitment to God. They choose to serve God and he alone, they affirm the need to run from sin and pursue obedience.

Why this commitment?

Upon a renewed sense of the reality of God, the faithfulness of God, the commitment of God.....we must desire to follow him with even greater seriousness than we too often do. You see this in Joshua 24.

“Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods, for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed. And the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

(Joshua 24:14-18)

Is it time for you to get serious about your commitment to God? When you are confronted with the truths about God does it make you want to serve and obey him more or are you really unaffected by it? These are great questions to ask the give some assessment of where you are with God. We need to know this.....it is impossible to see the faithfulness of God over and over (like we saw in Joshua) and not be driven to serve God with more fervor in our lives (like we see these guys doing in Joshua 24).

In light of what you have learned about God this week what behavior in your life needs to look different? In light of what you have learned about God this week what how can you commit to obey him this week? In light of what you have learned about God this week what action do you need to take at school?

Get serious.....



THE**ROCK**
STUDENT MINISTRIES
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BONFIRE IS COMING

November 14th - 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 a hayride, some chill time and of course a fire. More details to come

Hallelujah Night

October 31st, 5-7p

This is an 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.

- - - REFUEL – MLK WEEKEND (25 Student Spots left)- - -

place a deposit by September 27th for a \$20 discount and to be on the official list
SIGN UP at the wall in the back.

Keep in mind that you are not officially signed up until you've paid a deposit. The first 45 deposits will get the 45 spots.