



Sunday:

Sunday School – 9:30 am

Worship – 10:45 am

Wednesday:

The Rock Wednesday – 6:45pm

BIG EVENTS:

{NEAR}

BONFIRE – November 14th

ROCK FEAST 2015– November 18th

Classy Christmas – December 16th (dressy snazzy)

{FAR}

Refuel – MLK Weekend 2016

DNOW – March 11-13 (tentative)

Summer Camp – June 2016

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!





God is faithful and redeems

Ruth is a beautiful story. Sorry guys. But it was time for a tear jerker in the story right? I mean we have Ruth sandwiched in between two guy strong books. We have Samson killing people with jawbones on one side and on the other side we have battles galore. We needed Ruth but for far more than to just widen our scope and plot.

Ruth helps us see the faithfulness of God to his people. We see redemption and the story of a family. We also have this breath of fresh air in Ruth. We see a man, 2 women and a community that are committed to the covenant of God. We needed to see this after Judges right?

Ruth could almost stick out a bit if you thought about it but it's in the perfect place. Ruth 1:1 says this all happened during the days the judges ruled. We don't know exactly but we do know we had judges in Judges and 1 Samuel. But rather than where it belongs in the table of contents let's think about why it's even here, in the Bible.

So let's break it down into some sections and see why it's here:

1 VV. 1-5 – Meet Elimelech and Naomi, husband and wife. Committed to God and His covenant. There's a famine in their land and in the midst of this Elimelech dies. So Naomi packs up and heads for food. In the midst of her move Naomi is left practically alone due to the death of the others....she's left with Orpah and Ruth, wives received in a foreign land.

VV. 6-22 – Naomi decides to return to her hometown after hearing God had blessed with food. Ruth would accompany her....after much discussion

2 VV. 1-23 – Enter Boaz. Ruth gets a job, finds a home and Naomi is home again. But v. 23 is a big hinge for us moving forward.

3 VV 1-18 – The phrase Kinsmen – Redeemer comes into play. This would mean Naomi would have an heir once again...rather than alone she is embraced.

4 VV 1-22 – BITTER becomes SWEET and eventually the story ends with a genealogy. But read 4:13-17 and keep in mind..the line of David leads to Christ!

God is Faithful once again to continue the seed of the woman through crazy situations. How are we trusting this God who seems to work in His creation for His glory. Do we believe He is able?



breathe...(and get Wisdom/Direction)

The Psalms are real life. I think sometimes we view Scripture of something of a medicine bin where we go and get something only as we need it. If we need Wisdom we go to Proverbs. If we need to know about Jesus we go to the Gospels. If we need this we go here and so on. But the Bible is good for the soul, period. All of Scripture is filled with knowledge and wisdom that is for our good and God's glory.

The Psalms offer variety and really speaks for us rather than to us. It is a songbook that is meant to be sung.

The word Psalms actually means "Song" or "Praise."

The timeline of the Psalms really covers many people and much time.

So it's a collection of reflections of all God has done and all He will eventually do through Christ. It's a look back and look ahead. So let's remember the goodness of God and the reality of our sinfulness as God and man collide in this great collections of songs.

So this week I want us to simply read the Psalms together.

Feel free to sing them!

We'll offer some explanation and set up but then allow the Psalms to do the speaking, teaching and leading.

It is important to know that there are several types of Psalms

Today we read Psalm 1 – a song of wisdom. So read it!

Pretty straight forward isn't it?

So we ask –

1. Where am I walking, sitting, standing? v.1
2. Where is my delight? v. 2
3. What is the result of me delighting in the Lord? v. 3
4. What about those delighting in other things? v.4
5. What is the end? v. 5-6

Important questions to ask aren't they? Maybe even daily?

May God be honored by our lives today, this week, as we strive to delight in Him and His Law. It is not burdensome.....Jesus said He would make the burden light. So maybe we trust Him and lean in on Him rather than what we can accomplish.

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!



The Lord is....our REFUGE (TRUST)

Sometimes we need a place to hide or run to that is far away from the storms that often come up in life. We need a refuge. Psalm 23 is this place.

In this Psalm we see that it is the Lord who is the great comforter.

Go through and identify the descriptions of “the Lord.”
I’ll help get you started.

PS. 23 v.1 – He is Shepherd.

v. 2 – He is the One who leads

v. 3 – He is the restorer of my soul.

v. 4 – He is present (with me) in the midst of death.

Now you try.....

v.5

v.6

God’s faithfulness is dripping all over this Psalm isn’t it?

There is a shift in thought between v.3 and v.4. It’s not big and doesn’t change the overall thought but you see a change from heavy descriptions about God to some specific examples of things we face in life.

The end is simple – God is faithful, able and present.

This is a great comfort. It’s really why this Psalm is read in times of trials, death, and uncertainty. We constantly need reminding of this don’t we?

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

What are you seeking after today? Where are you going to fill you?

Is Christ enough for you? For extra take a look at Psalm 121.



real life....(GRIPES, LAMENTS)

(other laments: Ps. 3, 6, 28, 42, 56)

I feel if we were all honest Psalm 13 would represent our relationship with God the best. Maybe not by design or intent but the reality is we spend most of our time complaining to God or letting Him know He's messed up in some places.

You know you do it....I do too.

It's not wrong to say what you think but it does reveal how petty we sometimes think. Rather than trusting we constantly gripe.

How come they're happy and I'm not?

How come she's got the perfect guy and I don't?

How come they're not suffering like I am?

How come I go to church yet everyone who doesn't is happier?

(Fill in the blank with your rant for the week)

We all have them. The Psalmist (the writer of the Psalm) had them too.

These rants reveal our heart. God loves us getting real with Him but loves us aligning our thoughts and hearts to His plan even more.

So bring your rants, complaints and dealings to God but in the midst of this be transformed to have His mind which is in Christ Jesus.

Do you see how this Psalm ends? It begins with some complaining but ends with surrender....I will sing to the Lord.

In the midst of "they don't follow God but seem happy" complaints their hearts see something bigger than happiness. Ultimately we must trust in God despite the way things look in our world.

Psalm 13 is filled with questions and complaints. We call these laments. So Lament away! But may we surrender all to Him in the midst of this and come to a place of submission to God which results in us rejoicing in our salvation....the greatest "thing" we could ever have.

What complaints do you have? What gripes might you bring to God? What is the end of all this? Trust? Being Petty? Childish? or real?



Bow down.....WORSHIP/PRAISE

The reason the Psalms were written were to lead people to worship or praise God. So the Psalms are heavy on this type of song.

They think back to the Exodus, celebrate the Law, the Red Sea, the return from exile and captivity and ultimately they rejoice in the God of their salvation. They worship God while pointing to Jesus.

They do this in Psalm 2 and 110 but pointing to the eventual King and Priest.

But in the end the Psalms lead us to Worship.

So take some time and read through this Psalm....though there are many we settle on one in particular. **PSALM 145**

But I encourage you to flip through and find others....

Like we said Wednesday night – it would be great if we practiced reading a Psalm each week....pick one and read it as much as possible. If it's a longer Psalm split it up in multiple readings that week.

Get in the Psalms and allow Scripture to speak for you.

Consider this: How much time you spend on other things?

Some of these things are needed right? We understand that!

But so many times we give way too much time and energy to things that simply do not matter. It's not that they are bad things but when they take time away from greater things they come bad don't they?

So maybe we set some boundaries to what we're going to allow into our lives. Maybe we start saying yes to Jesus more and NO to things that really don't matter.

“My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.” Ps. 145:21 – May this be our life!



THE **ROCK**
STUDENT MINISTRIES
PS. 61:2