



**Sunday:**

Sunday School – 9:30 am

Worship – 10:45 am

**Wednesday:**

The Rock Wednesday – 6:45pm

**BIG EVENTS:**

**{NEAR}**

BONFIRE – **SATURDAY** - November 14<sup>th</sup> (

ROCK FEAST 2015– **NEXT WEEK** - November 18<sup>th</sup>

Classy Christmas – December 16<sup>th</sup> (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 provides a king...*

1<sup>st</sup> Samuel shows us the beginning of the era of kings in Israel. The people of Israel are just coming off of a 400-year period that they have been guided by judges. We open up chapter 8 to see that Samuel's sons have recently started judging the people of Israel, and they haven't done a stand-up job. Samuel's sons were nothing like him. They "took bribes and perverted justice," and this angered the people of Israel. They went straight to Samuel and told him that they were tired of his sons' corrupt rule. They demanded a king to rule them, but they demanded one for the wrong reason...

***"Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations."***

Israel desired a king so they could be like all the other nations that surrounded them. They rejected the way that God had made for them. The ESV Study Bible says it best, "They want to exchange their unique glory as the people of the incomparable God (2:2), who had brought them out of Egypt (8:8) and was even now protecting them (10:19), for status in the world, in order to be 'like all the nations.'" By saying this, the people of Israel told God that they no longer wanted what he had planned for them. They wanted a king that would please their wants and desires.

A few verses later Samuel tries to tell them the dangers of a king and what will happen when one is in rule, but the people of Israel don't listen. They tell Samuel that they will have a king rule over them, and the Lord allows it. He tells Samuel to obey their voice. A king that would make their status better than that of the nations surrounding them.

In chapter 8, we see that Israel approached the issue with a wrong heart. They weren't approaching God with a desire for Him to lead them how He saw fit. No, they were telling Him how they needed to be ruled, and in a way, they were telling God and Samuel to step aside.

Just from reading over this, we can see that the Israelites were very arrogant and demanding. Relate this to your life. What are you forcing in your own life. Are you having daily communion with God to ask His will to be done in your life? Are you asking for his guidance regularly? Are you seeking to look at life with gospel-focused lenses?

Strive to pray to God more and more and don't be arrogant in your decision-making and thinking. Don't come to God expecting Him to do it your way. Ask God to lead you and open doors where He sees fit so He can direct your life down a road that glorifies Him.



### *rely on God...*

The story of David and Goliath is a really cool and interesting story if you really look at the magnitude of the fight. Some of you may have grown up in children's church or Sunday school coloring pictures of a premature boy swinging a sling hitting a middle-aged man that's taller than the height of your garage. Others of you may have not ever heard of the throw-down.

Regardless, don't just turn the page because today we want to dig deeper than just seeing that God can use people no matter their size.

In the beginning of the story, we see the armies gathering for battle. The two armies stand at arms on separate mountainsides staring at each other as a valley separates them. Goliath is the first main character to arise.

Goliath marches out of the camp, alone. He stands almost 10 feet tall (6 cubits and a span equals 9.75 ft.). That's taller than any man recorded in modern day history (Robert Wadlow lived in early - mid 20th century and was 8 ft. 11 inches, look him up. He's huge). Here we literally see a giant. He comes out with a helmet made from bronze, a coat of bronze scales, and a bronze spear. In all, his armor weighed at least 140 pounds. From this info it's evident that Goliath was no small dude.

After seeing Goliath, the Israelites were not in sight. Goliath had to call out to them because he knew they were hiding. Verse 11 says, "When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid." No one wanted to fight him. As soon as the people of Israel saw Goliath, they forgot that they had the all powerful, omniscient God on their side. The God who delivered Israel from over 400 years of oppression, split the Red Sea so Israel could cross, provided water and manna for 40 years, sent Israel judges to deliver them from their enemies, and yet they continue to worry about the obstacles that lie ahead. We see that the people of God didn't have faith in God.

Then David arrives. He's coming to bring food to his brothers, and when he gets there, he finds the Israelites cowering away from the battlefield because of Goliath. David calls them out. He tells Saul, "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." Then they try and cloth David with armor so he won't be completely obliterated, but David's not having it. David walks to the battlefield with a staff, a sling, and 5 stones. He approaches the Philistine, and as Goliath is cursing him, he calls on God to give him the strength. So David swings the stone and it sinks into Goliath's forehead, and Goliath falls like a tree that's just been sawed in half.

This story isn't meant to convey that God won't let any troubles or trials come our way, nor is it meant to say that God's faithfulness is based on his ability to save us from persecution. Instead, we see that God will bring us into situations that we can't handle without Him and through this God gets all the glory!

Had David went in there with an arrogant attitude, the fight could and probably would've been completely different. This 10-foot man is defeated by a kid. That's like saying I (Alex) could take down Manny Pacquiao. Highly unlikely. But because of David's faithfulness and his devotion to God, God delivers him from the harms way. This isn't to say that we won't encounter persecution. Jesus tells us in Matthew 10:16, "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves."

We will face persecution, and we won't always defeat it. God can use the hard times as growing times, but in all we must remember that God is faithful whether he delivers us from the face of troubles or whether he keeps us where we're at.

**The two key points we ought to learn from this story are:**

1. God can and will put us in situations that we aren't capable of understanding or handling, and in those times, the thing we must do is rely on God.
2. Even though we must abide in God in times of distress, he is faithful whether he relieves us from our suffering 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!



## Rejoice in the Lord...

2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 7 begins with David desiring to build the Ark of the Covenant a home. He feels that since God's blessed him with a "house of cedar" he ought make something better than a tent for the Ark to rest in. And, the prophet agrees! Nathan thinks it's a great idea, so much that he says, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you."

God had different plans. God tells Nathan that he doesn't need a house, at least not one built by David. Instead, God says that he's going to build David a house. We're not talking about a house with walls, flooring, and a ceiling. We're talking about a dynasty, a kingdom. And in verses 12-14 we see God describing that house.

He says, "When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son."

In these couple verses, we see God making the covenant with David. God's going to raise up one of David's descendants, and that offspring will reign forever! The magnitude of this statement is surreal because we see that the people are going to finally have rest. But, as the Old Testament continues, it begins to seem that God isn't going to keep his promise..

We see that most of David's sons weren't good kings. Instead, they lead the Israelites into sin and brought judgment and discipline on the land. The people really begin to question the reputation of God. They began to ask themselves, "Will he keep his promise? Wasn't there supposed to be a king that saved us? Where is he?"

We are all guilty of asking God questions like these. In the midst of losing a loved one, do you God, "how can You take such a good person?" When you make a bad grade, do you ask God, "how can You let us fail when I tried so hard?" We always think we know what's best for our life, but we're wrong. We don't know God's reasoning for things or how he's going to work a situation out.

Looking back with a New Testament perspective, we know that Jesus was that king that God is talking about in 2 Samuel 7. We know that Jesus was better than any king to date and that he will always be better. We know that God had a plan, and it was worked out in his timing, not ours.

Let's remember this. God has everything planned out, and we ought not to worry about any situation. So, today, let's take solace in the Lord, and rejoice in him just as David does in vs. 18-29.



comfort....

Samuel 11 shows us a different side of David than what we've seen in previous chapters. We've seen David appointed and made king, he's been victorious against his enemies because of his faith in God, and God's made a covenant with David telling him that the Messiah would come from his lineage. However, we enter chapter 11 only to see David becoming comfortable. And nothing is more dangerous than being comfortable.

At the beginning of the chapter, we see David lounging on his couch, and he decides to take a stroll on his rooftop (odd place to walk around, but I guess if you're the king you can't really walk around the town peaceably). When he gets to the roof, he happens to see a woman bathing. The problem doesn't lie in that he happened upon the woman because he can't help the situation, but the problem lies in that he keeps looking. David becomes so engrossed in Bathsheba that he sends someone to inquire about her. After Bathsheba is brought to him, they are sexually immoral, and she becomes pregnant. David is freaking out and doesn't know what to do. A few verses down, we see that David comes up with a plan, but it's a completely immoral and horrific plan. David commands his head of military, Joab, to put Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, at the frontline and withdraw troops so that Uriah is killed. Joab reluctantly goes through with the plan, and Uriah is killed. In this one chapter, we've seen that David commits adultery and murder.

"Surely, David did not arise from his afternoon nap (v. 2) planning to become an adulterer, a conspirator, a murderer, and a hypocrite. Sin seldom shows itself all at once, or even as sin at all. The temptation to sin is usually subtler than that. But once in its grip, one is taken to places one never intended to go and held longer than one ever intended to stay. In violating his position of power, David harms everyone around him, including the consciences of the messengers who do his bidding and of his coconspirator Joab (if such a conscience actually existed). The Lord, who is often elsewhere reported to be 'with David,' is not even mentioned until the final line of the chapter: 'But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.'"

- The Gospel Transformation Study Bible

We are shown in this story just how deadly comfort can be. Sin grows exponentially in our times of relaxation and laziness. When you're home alone, how great are the temptations of sin? In these down times, you don't need to let your guard down because when that happens, temptation is sure to arise, and sin is sure to flourish.



## the song...

Read over Samuel 22, David's song of deliverance.

David would sing this song after he became victorious over their enemies, and he sang it when he was saved from the hand of Saul. David recognizes the grace and mercy God has on him during his reign and recounts on all the miraculous situations he has delivered David from.

In David's song we see a God that is attentive, a God that is always listening for His children. We also see that God is willing to work through us. Countless times David calls on the name of the Lord, and God carries him through battle and allowing David to come out victorious.

Let today be a day of rejoicing and praising God for what he's done in your life. And while you read this song from David, ask yourself a few questions:

Is God my rock?

Am I relying on Him to bring me out of my suffering?

Do I call on Him in my distress?

What has God delivered you from?

How is God working in your life?

What situations have you gone through, and how did God grow you in them?

Pay attention to the imagery David gives throughout the song and notice how God has worked in his life. This is a good chapter to leave off with because we can basically summarize David's kingship by looking over his song.



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