



THE ROCK
STUDENT MINISTRIES
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February 18-24
Weekly Devotions & Announcements



Sunday:

Sunday School – 9:30 am
Worship – 10:45 am

Wednesday:

The Rock Wednesday – 6:45pm

BIG EVENTS:

{NEAR}

DNOW – March 11-13 (SIGN UP IN THE BACK w/ shirt size)

{FAR}

Splash Missions - May 23-24

Summer Camp – June 2016

Roatan Trip – July 9-16 (**see Chris ASAP**)

Buffalo Mission Trip – July 18-22, 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!



ONE TO ONE



The ONE to ONE method is a great tool for personal use but also in reading the Bible with others. Our heart at the Rock is to help lead you to know Christ and follow Him. One way we can do this is to help you learn how to read the Bible.

This is also a great tool that will strengthen you to lead Bible studies at school or on the mission field. Don't shy away from this...jump in and become a student of the Word which will lead you to living a life that brings God much glory!



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?

Who can you begin reading the Bible with in this 1 to 1 style?

ROCK MISSION

SEED COMPANY

For many years The Rock SM have partnered with the Seed Company to provide the Scripture in the YEMBA people group's hands.

It's frightening to know that some people do not even have the Bible in their own language. Together we can partner with others and put an end to this. Below is a brief summary of the Yemba People.

Together we can pray....together we can give.

PROJECT SUMMARY:

The Yemba people live in western Cameroon. Their traditional African religion includes ancestor worship and communing with the dead. Although Christianity came to the Yemba in 1903 and approximately 92 percent of the people claim Christianity, only 5 percent truly follow Christ. Because their social culture makes churches a strategic gathering place, the primary goal is to translate the full New Testament — with an immediate focus on the Scriptures used frequently during services, so the Yemba can understand the truth of God's Word.

THE NEED:

Ancestor worship is common among many communities including the Yemba's. They believe God is faraway, hard to reach, and unsympathetic to their daily struggles. They also believe dead ancestors are closer to God and have a better chance to influence their future. So they diligently try to appease those spirits, displaying old skulls at home. The Fo'o, or chief, is highly regarded as the most powerful villager. He sacrifices to ancestors and mediates with spirits for them — at a steep price. Soothsayers are hired to ask ancestors about future events. Christianity arrived when Catholic priests built a community church. The highest hurdle to faith in Christ is to dispel people's need for traditional rituals. They think rituals provide protection and connect them to God. Villagers struggle to understand that Jesus' sacrifice is sufficient to secure their future and protect their families.

Get Involved:

At Camp we typically give towards this cause but why wait until then. As an individual, life group or family you can give. If you're not sure how just ask me and I'll help you through it.

But you can also always pray! Your prayer helps translators and their families face problems such as sickness, conflict and spiritual opposition that can threaten their work. Visit www.theseedcompany.org, to commit to invest in and pray for the Yemba New Testament Project translation team.



Jesus laid down His life

Last night we took an in depth look at the cross. Not the wood but the work of the cross. For me personally it was a night that affected my head and my heart.

My head in that I was strengthened in wisdom on why Jesus had to die.
My heart in that I was drawn to worship Jesus for all He did for me.

We must understand that without the cross...without Christ we are hopeless. Read what Paul says in **I Corinthians 15:14**.

But because of the cross we can be forgiven.

I want us to read **Mark 14:32-26**. It's but a short section but one that shows us the humanity of Jesus. He knew the pain that was coming but ultimately He surrendered Himself to the will of the Father.

Jesus could have escaped death.

Jesus could have remained at the Father's side.

Jesus could have rejected the plan of God but He didn't....He endured the cross.

As we think the next few days about Why Jesus died may we understand that our sin is ultimately why He died. He was actually going to die....go through pain. He didn't do this because He needed anything....Jesus did this to obey the will of His Father, God. Without His death we would still be in our sin without hope for cleansing.

Jesus died so we might live.

Think through this and ask the question: Who is Jesus?

Is He crazy? a lunatic?

Is He a liar?

Or is He Lord?

Think through last night again...the cross...the moment you were listening to the song and thinking through a word to put on the small cross you were given.

How is that impacting you today....not the exercise but the King of Glory, Jesus.
How is He impacting how you live your life today...this week?

Pray and thank God for the cross....for without it we are still in our sin.



Jesus died for our sin

We want to be confident in knowing the answer to this question:

WHY DID JESUS DIE?

Without overcomplicating it we can simply say SIN.

Sin is why Jesus died.

We read through a list of 9 verses Wednesday Night...you can find them on the last page of this Devotion guide.

But during these devotions we hope to go a bit deeper.

Maybe even introduce you to some big words that are crucial to understanding why Jesus died.

The Religious Jewish leaders were constantly giving Jesus a hard time...due to Jesus' claims of being God. We often blame them for killing Jesus. As if they are solely responsible for this horrible thing.

In the end all of mankind is responsible for the death of Jesus.

Read Romans 3:23 and answer this question:

WHO HAS SINNED?

That's a simple question with a very simple answer.

Part of being drawn to salvation is realizing this simple truth:

WE HAVE ALL SINNED – NONE OF US CAN SAY WE ARE INNOCENT

Thankfully Romans 5:8 comes later. (I'd read it real quick)

But we can't think for one minute that our hands are clean.

Jesus died for us but Jesus also died because of us....our sin.

Today allow this burden to be lifted by Jesus.

Yes, we put Jesus on the cross....but in this beautiful tragedy we find grace.

Pray and thank God for grace in the midst of tragedy.

Allow this to change how you live and how you show this grace to others.

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!



Jesus was our substitution

Jesus Christ took our place on the cross. In short this is what we are communicating. We said on Friday that our sin put Jesus on the cross. What does that even mean?

It means this:

Our sin had to be paid for.....the sacrificial system of the Old Testament would not completely cover our sins. We would always need more lambs. Until the perfect, spotless Lamb of God came.

This is why John the Baptist said “BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD WHO TAKES AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD.” He knew who Jesus was.

Eventually there must be a perfect sacrifice that would pay for all the sins of all the world once and for all. Jesus was this lamb.

READ 2 Corinthians 5:14

In short, in your words, what is this verse saying?

I'd probably say it like this:

Jesus took my place on the cross. I have life through His death.

This brings a clearer appreciation for Romans 5:8, John 3:16, Romans 6:23. Can you imagine giving up your Son to the pain of the cross for a people who would reject Him?

Think through this.....the very people He was sent to be the substitution for were mocking Him, beating Him and rejecting Him. Ironic right?

Before we cast stones at them consider your own life. How often do you reject Him in your own life?

Finish today by praying and thanking God for Jesus.
Jesus died to take our place on the cross.

Rather than holding you accountable for paying the bill that sin brings He consumed it all for you, me, the world (JOHN 3:16).

THANK HIM FOR THAT AND LIVE A LIFE THAT EXPRESSES THIS.

Jesus was the Atonement for our sin.

There has always been a price, or demand, for sin. If we go all the way back to the fall in Genesis 3 we see that sin demanded a price. Not sure you will remember but in GEN. 3:21 Adam had to kill an animal to make clothes for His wife....Sin brought sacrifice. Sin always results in a situation that demands action.

The greatest of all actions Sin demands is God's wrath.

Read I John 1:5 – What is this saying about God?

It says God is Holy and without sin.

God cannot be in the presence of sin just like light can't be in the presence of darkness. It's impossible. Light does away with darkness. God cannot be in the presence of sin nor can He allow it to go unpunished.

So what do we do? As a people who are sinful we have a problem right? This brings us to Jesus.

Jesus stood in our place...He was our substitution.

But He was also our atonement.

What does this mean? Read Mark 10:45

Jesus as our atonement means that Jesus satisfied the wrath of God toward sin...all the wrath, anger, bad feelings against us because of Sin was satisfied through Christ.

NOW – in Christ – God's wrath is relaxed.

NOW – in Christ – rather than God's wrath we have Jesus' righteousness.

The animal sacrifices of the OT were temporary and incomplete.

Jesus has brought the ultimate sacrifice and ultimate covering for our sin.

Now rather than being condemned in our sin we can be made alive in Christ.

Again, finish by praying and thanking God for this good grace.

“He sent His son to be the payment for our sin.”

This is God's doing and this was His plan the entire time.



Jesus is our Purification

What is the end result of the question: Why did Jesus die?
We are white as snow....pure.

We began by realizing our sin...darkness, evil, nastiness was why Jesus died. So rather than leaving us in this state....God sent His Son.

In sending His son God has dealt with the problem of sin once and for all. Why did God create us? Ultimately to be with Him. Sin caused a problem with this....God can't be in the presence of sin right?

So God sent His son to take our place (substitution) and deal with the price of sin (God's wrath) and by God's grace, through faith we can be forever changed (Sin's forgiven, white as snow.)

Read Isaiah 1:18

God always had a plan....this story was never off course. Even in the OT we see God promising a truer and better sacrifice.

So we finish where we started.
Who is this Jesus?

John 1:29 gives us this answer and hopefully now you have wisdom in knowing why Jesus died.....

Jesus: The Lamb of God who has come to take away the sins of the world.

- How has your eternity been changed by Jesus?
- How has your life been changed by Jesus?
- How have your friendship been changed by Jesus?
- How have your plans been changed by Jesus?
- How will today be different because of Jesus?

This Jesus is the suffering servant who came to set us free. He demands our life because He gave His life as a ransom for all.
LIAR? LUNATIC? LORD?

WHY DID JESUS DIE?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR US?

A CONTEMPLATION (examination) OF THE CROSS.

- 1 John 1:5 God is Holy and without sin
- Genesis 1:31 God made man Holy and without any sin
- Colossians 2:13 Sin results in death
- 1 Peter 2:22 Jesus is sinless
- Romans 3:23 We are sinful
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 Jesus became our sin
- Mark 10:45 Jesus died for us, as payment for our sin
- Romans 5:8, Phil. 2:8

- **John 19** **The Crucifixion (The Cross)**

(WRITE YOUR WORDS UNDER HERE)

1 John 1:5: _____ Gen. 1:31: _____

Col. 2:13: _____ 1 Peter 2:22: _____

Romans 3:23: _____ 2 Cor. 5:21: _____

Mark 10:45: _____ Romans 5:8: _____

GROUPS: after the song...quietly move into groups and discuss the following

1. What were some words you wrote down tonight?

- why did you choose those specific words? Talk through some.
- what do those words mean?
- Maybe talk a little about why you ultimately chose the word for the cross.

2. Why did Jesus have to die?

it's crucial we know why.....this question is huge.

3. What did Jesus' death do/accomplish?

- Finish by reading Ephesians 2:1-10
- what is the response of the believer after reading this?