



THE ROCK
STUDENT MINISTRIES
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March 24 - 30
Weekly Devotions & Announcements



Sunday:

Sunday School – 9:30 am

Worship – 10:45 am

Wednesday:

The Rock Wednesday – 6:45pm

BIG EVENTS:

{NEAR}

Splash Missions - May 23-24

Summer Camp – June 2016 (signups begins next week!)

Roatan Trip – July 9-16 (**\$200 now due**)

Buffalo Mission Trip – July 18-22, 2016 (**deadline April 10**)

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 MISSIONS

HONDURAS

This past weekend you all had the opportunity to give to missions and partner with what's going on in Honduras.

What is going on?

What's going on is a training conference for local pastors. By local we mean guys who are actually from Honduras and live there currently. These are pastors and leaders of the church who are serious about the WORD.

There really is not better way to help win Honduras for Christ than to train these guys to read and teach Scripture. These guys then go and teach their church and reach the people in their area.

Typically when we go on mission we minister to a single village and the effects often are only as lasting as long as we are there. This trip is special in that it really pours into the leaders who live there. Therefore the results are continually pouring out. God blesses in both trips for sure!

You have the potential to partner with them in the Gospel in 3 ways.

3 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN MISSIONS:

PRAY

pray for Andrew and I as we go to teach
pray for the pastors and leaders and translators

GIVE

give as a family, life group or individual.
give money or even other things that are needed.

GO

go with us next time or plan to go in the future!
go across the street (you can do the same thing here...train!)

Missions is not restricted to you going to Africa. Missions is bigger than that and this weekend we have an opportunity to celebrate what God is doing around the world and what He is doing right here at home.



Maundy Thursday

Mark 14:36

“Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

“Jesus (God), having longed, and even pled, to be delivered from God’s will, expressed in these nine simple words a humble faith in and submission to God’s will that was more beautiful than all the glory in the created heavens and earth combined. Mystery upon Trinitarian mystery: Jesus (God) did not consider equality with God a thing to be grasped, but became obedient to God’s will, even if it meant Jesus (God) dying an incomprehensibly horrifying death on a Roman cross (Philippians 2:6, 8). Jesus (God) wanted God’s will to be done on earth as it is in heaven, even though in that dark moment, Jesus (God) wished in body and soul that God’s will could be done another way.... No human has suffered more embracing the will of God the Father than God the Son.” –

Jon Bloom at DesiringGod.org

(www.desiringgod.org/articles/not-my-will-be-done)

The purpose of putting God in parenthesis after Jesus is to show that Jesus is still God (the trinity). In this prayer, we can see that God desired another way. That’s why Jesus prays to be delivered from this cup, or God’s wrath, but both God the Father and God the son know there is no other way. Therefore, Jesus prays, “yet not what I will, but what you will.”

What does this tell us about Jesus?

How does this relate to what we talked about in Matthew 6 at D-Now?

What does this teach us about our prayer life?

For further resources pertaining to Maundy Thursday check out DesiringGod’s or TheGospelCoalition’s videos and articles on today.



Good Friday

Read John 18-19

John 19:28-30

“After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said, ‘I thirst.’ A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, ‘It is finished,’ and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”

“It is finished.” Those three words explain the purpose of Christ’s life, and one of the cornerstones of our Christian belief. Christ’s last statement is saying that we are no longer oppressed by the Law. The Law is the written code spoken to the prophets by God (Exodus - Deuteronomy). We talked about this at the beginning of our walk through the Bible. We quickly came to realize that no one was capable of keeping it. But, Christ came and lived that life for us. He fulfilled the Law in every way, and that’s what His final words mean. “It is finished.” The wrath of God has been poured out on Him, and we have a more beautiful way to the Father. We now have a sacrificial Lamb that lasts forever. This is truly the saddest but greatest day in human history.

Why is this truth so important?

A really good article on Good Friday can be found at

<http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/it-is-finished-good-friday>

For further resources pertaining to Good Friday check out DesiringGod’s or TheGospelCoalition’s videos and articles on today.

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!





Can God Save a Terrorist?

We hinted at this question in the message this week... can God save a terrorist?

Well, we know that Saul quite literally was a terrorist in his day. He would capture and imprison and murder Christians because he enjoyed it. We know this because Acts 8:1 tells us he “approved of [Stephen’s] execution.”

Saul was a modern day Isis soldier. Over the past months, we’ve heard numerous stories in the news about Isis killing...beheading Christians, and we rightfully mourn over this tragic news. However, in light of this horrendous persecution are you really praying for their salvation? Are you really praying for God to change their hearts and rescue them from Hell?

Read Jonah 4. Jonah has just preached to the Ninevites that they needed to repent and believe in God. He wasn’t happy that God allowed them to be saved. He wanted their destruction because they were such wicked people.

At the end of chapter 4, Jonah is complaining/mourning because a tree he was finding shade under died. God responds to Jonah’s cries by saying to him, “You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know there right hand from their left...?” (vs 10-11).

In light of that, do you really believe God can and will change the heart of anyone He desires to, and are you willing to help Him? Or will you be like Jonah?

Ananias Faith

Our last devotional talked about how Jonah was so against evangelizing to Nineveh that he would run the other way. He was without a doubt, disobeying the Father, and Jonah saw no need to go to Nineveh because he thought they were just too far gone. But with Ananias we see a completely different story.

Read Acts 9:10-19

In Acts 9:10-19, God comes to Ananias in a vision and tells him to welcome Saul...God wants Ananias to welcome and serve Saul, the greatest threat to Christ's church at that time. Reading over verses 13 and 14, you can kind of sense the hesitation and nervousness in his voice. I picture him saying, "but... God you realize who this is, right? He's done so much evil to your saints at Jerusalem. And the chief priests have given him authority to arrest anyone that calls on your name, God! I could get thrown in jail!!" But God tells him to go because Saul is a chosen instrument to greatly further God's kingdom, and Ananias obeys the Lord. He comes to Saul with compassion and love and in the name of Jesus.

The faithfulness of Ananias is in stark contrast from that of Jonah.

Compare Jonah and Ananias

Who should we desire to be more like?

How would you have responded?

Desire and pray to have faith like that of Ananias



Justification, Sanctification, and Regeneration

What is Salvation?

Salvation is the act of us being justified, sanctified, and regenerated through the sacrificial death of God the Son.

Your first questions are probably what is justification, sanctification, and regeneration?

Justification is the act of being declared righteous in the sight of God. That's saying we are no longer enslaved to our sin. (Romans 5:9)

Sanctification is being made holy. It's a step by step process that continues throughout our whole life, and we're constantly being made more like Jesus.

Regeneration is the act of us coming from death to life. This isn't physically dying and being resurrected, but it's what Ephesians 2:1-10 talks about. We were dead in our sins and trespasses, but God raised us up.

These three things are fancy ways of saying what God has done for us in salvation.

Take a few minutes and think over these basics of salvation and think how they are present in your life. Think specifically about how they are present but then also about how they are lacking. Ultimately we all fail in areas and rather than "doing better" we must "trust deeper." Of course it is true there are things we must do but these never compare to knowing God. It is He who enables and allows us to live for Him. Are we walking with Him? Abiding in Him?

ACTS 9

Main Idea:

God has the power to change whomever He desires whenever He desires.

GROUPS:

Questions coming after the sermon

Ananias knew that God had the power to change people.

Are you willing to believe that God can change the heart of anyone?