



THE ROCK
STUDENT MINISTRIES
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April 21-27
Weekly Devotions & Announcements



Sunday:

Sunday School – 9:30 am

Worship – 10:45 am

Wednesday:

The Rock Wednesday – 6:45pm

BIG EVENTS:

Splash Missions - May 23-24

Summer Camp – June 2016 (sign up now)

WE NEED A SIGNED REGISTRATION FORM (located under sign up)
deadline for deposit is May 11th – after this price goes up

Roatan Trip – July 9-16 **(meeting coming soon!)**

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

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

Missions NOW

We talk a lot about missions and sharing the Gospel. How are you getting involved with what we're doing? More importantly, how are obeying this command to go and tell in your own life. Below are some creative ways for you to get involved in gospel ministry.

1. Offer to do some yard work for a widow or an elderly couple in your neighborhood.
2. Volunteer to help coach your little brother's peewee football team.
3. Offer to clean the bleachers, pick up the trash, etc. one Friday night after your school's football game.
4. Visit a nearby orphanage and spend the afternoon reading books and playing games with the children.
5. Volunteer at your local soup kitchen.
6. Sponsor a canned food drive. Give all donations to your local Salvation Army chapter.
7. Visit the apartments for the elderly to perform a skit or mini-play during their dinner time.
8. One Friday night, turn your basement into a coffee house. Serve desserts, hot chocolate, and of course, coffee! Play some good music, and offer this as a fun and safe alternative to the weekend. If coffee isn't your thing be creative...what would work?
9. Contact a church located in the inner city. With their help, plan a weekend missions trip to help them with whatever they need.
10. Have an ice cream party for all the neighborhood kids, celebrating the end of school!
11. Help your parents out by spending a Saturday giving your house and garage a good fall cleaning, not to mention sorting through the boxes in the attic!
12. Teach a Sunday school class or volunteer in the church nursery.
13. Commit to becoming a "Big Brother" or "Big Sister" with your local "Big Brothers, Big Sisters" chapter or with a similar organization.
14. Volunteer at the Special Olympics games nearest you.
15. Commit to volunteering once a month. Be creative and diligent. Then watch how God blesses others—and you—through your unselfish work.

I'm sure you have ideas of your own...let us know about them. How are using your time to point others to Christ?



Take your pick:

Matthew 22:39, John 13:34-35, Romans 12:10, 1 John 4:7-8

It doesn't matter which of these passages you picked because essentially they all say the same thing: the Christian is to love one another. In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, He specifically said that we are to love our enemies and those who hate us. In these verses however Jesus and His apostles are given the command to love each other. Sometimes, it would be easier to love our enemies than those who know the most about us and always seem to be there. But this command to love the rest of the body of Christ is given over and over.

- 1 Why can it be hard to love the rest of the body of Christ sometimes?
- 2 What are some ways that you have been unloving to body of Christ?
- 3 Think of some ways that you can love the Church personally. It need not be complicated or extravagant, it might be making a better effort to attend church services or seeking ways to encourage fellow Christians throughout the week.

Loving one another is repeated a lot throughout the New Testament. Why do you think its so important to God?



WHY YOU ALWAYS GOT TO BE LEAVING

There is no spiritual X-ray machine, so it is impossible for you or I to know the heart of others. However, there is one fool-proof method to determining if someone is a true disciple of Jesus Christ or not: Do they remain in the church?

It may sound over-simplified and possibly making too much of the church but it comes directly from the Bible. Apparently, the church that John was writing to was troubled by the fact that there were some leaving the church.

These deserters used to look like real true followers-but then they left. What was the church to make of such men and women? What had happened?

1. Can you think of anyone you know that used to be deeply involved in the church and now are no where to found?
2. What have you contributed to the decrease in their participation?
3. After reading this passage, how has your opinion changed?

How does this new understanding help us see who God is and how He works better?

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!

A MODEL TO BE FOLLOWED

\\ Sometimes when you look at the American church it can be disturbing. Maybe you remember the issues the Catholic Church had a while back, or maybe you have known have church members or even worse pastors who have sinned greatly and lost the respect of their church and their community. Or maybe you have just seen great apathy and a lack of really living out the Gospel. You're not alone.

\\ However, sometimes we need to be reminded that it hasn't always been this way. One of those times was in the beginning. The Holy Spirit was working mightily in the early church and these are the results.

1. What do you notice about the early church
2. Start with the man in the mirror. What do you see that is very different from the way you live?
3. How could you change your behaviors, attitudes, and the things you love to better follow the early church's model?
4. Acts 2:47 tells how God worked in the early church. How did He?
What is the connection to the rest of the passage?



IS IT SPELLED MENTOREE OR MENTORE?

Paul writes a letter to a young pastor Titus. In his letter he encourages Titus to encourage the church under his care to do several things. One of the things that he encourages is found in this passage.

1. What does Paul encourage for people like you? (young man, young woman, older men, older women)
2. What does Paul encourage for the relationship to be like for older men/women and younger men/women?
3. What would that look like in your life?
4. Answer #3 while remembering that you are an older person to somebody?
5. How can you seek these kind of relationships out?



HEAVEN IS FOR REAL

\\ Revelation is a crazy, confusing book which has been made much crazier and confusinger by people trying their best to make it less crazy and less confusing. Bless their hearts.

But while this passage might have some issues that could be debated, let's stick to the main point. In this passage something beautiful is happening.

\\ We've mentioned this passage and others like it several times throughout the year because it is truly the culmination of every story, twist, turn, prophesy and law we find in the Bible.

1. What do you see in this passage?
2. How are people divided in this passage?
3. They aren't.
4. What are people doing in this passage?
5. What promises are provided for the people of God in this passage?

4 questions for the next 4 weeks:

- 1. **What is the Gospel?** (tonight)
- 2. Is Church important?
- 3. How/Why should I stand firm IN the Gospel?
- 4. How/Why should I stand firm FOR the Gospel?

WHY DO I HAVE TO LOVE THE CHURCH?

Studies say 3/4th's of you will not attend church in 5 years.

1. THE CHURCH IS JESUS'S _____

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2. YOU NEED THE CHURCH

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3. THE CHURCH IS _____

QUESTIONS:

- 1. Do I love the Church?
- 2. Am I engaged in her purposes and ministries? (Do I serve, participate?)
- 3. Do I see my need for the Church?
- 4. Do I honestly understand why the Church is crucial to my life?