



**Sunday:**

Sunday School – 9:45 am

Worship – 10:45 am

**Wednesday:**

The Rock Wednesday – 6:45pm

**BIG EVENTS:**

Meet & Greet – September 13<sup>th</sup>

Refuel – MLK Weekend 2016

DNOW – (early Spring)

Summer Camp – June 2016

## Upcoming Events:

### **Saturday, August 1st – “TO SAVE A LIFE” movie**

At the Rock –you must have a consent form filled out to attend.  
(the movie is very emotional, real, touchy and convicting)

We will have some food, watch the movie and then have some time to talk through some things. It will be a fun night but it's set up to be more of an equipping and challenging time together.

**\*\*\*Students must bring a snack or drink to the movie.**

### Coming this Fall:

1. Paintball
2. Swimming Party at The Altman's
3. New Year Kick Off
4. Rock Meet & Greet
5. Guys Breakfast (once school starts)

### **Tonight we continue our walk through Acts on Wednesday Nights.**

Our hope is to walk through Acts just like our devotions. It's a good way to cement what we're getting each day through the Word. The hope is it attaches to our hearts and is expressed through our lives.

We don't want to be hearers only but doers!



# 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 to walk with God in Word and Prayer seriously and become intentional in the time they devote to Him each day. We believe if this happens our walk with Him will strengthen.

Another great hope and prayer is that families will journey through this devotion guide together. Imagine if each family were having conversations based on what they were reading each day from God's Word? There is great possibility and great promise for the family that is centered around God and His Word.

There are no dates so simply put a mark on the devotion after you're done. Work at your own pace and when you're done with a book, about a month, pass your book onto a friend and get another one!

## The Plan

The plan will be to take 5 days each week to work through the devotions. These will be set up to be done Thursday to Wednesday. Saturday will be used for reflection or catch up. Sunday will be a day of rest and worship.

This devo will be grounded in **the Word of God**. Scripture alone is our guide and help. The plan is to allow you the opportunity to open Scripture and see for yourself. We invite you to "taste and see that the Lord is good!" For this reason we will simply reference Scripture rather than typing it out for you. Our culture is lazy when it comes to picking up a book. It's fine to look on a kindle, or some smart device, but nothing beats feeling that leather on your fingers as you flip through Scripture. We must get past this laziness and convenience and we pray this devotion book helps in this regard.

The devotions in the book are coming from our personal time in the Word. We will study large chunks of passages, sometimes a smaller book of the Bible. It's amazing how God teaches us when we just open His Word and study it.

## The Main Idea & Challenge

Each day the devotion will offer a main idea and challenge/application. These will help gather our hearts and minds around one solid truth from Scripture and then give us a point of action or application. There are always many points and sometimes many angles you could take a set of Scripture but there is also always one Main Idea, a bottom line statement. So we hope to pull this out each time.

# SOME PERSONAL HELP:

## 3 things to exercise and work out as you read through Scripture

These are things you'll hear throughout the devotions and things that appear often within our student ministry.

You'll hear them, work through them and hopefully they eventually become a regular part of how you handle Scripture.

1. **Observe** – (What does it say?) What is there? What questions come up?  
How does it repeat? What stands out?  
Any shifts in the story or section of verses?
2. **Interpret** – (What does it mean?) What is the Bible saying about what stood out?
3. **Apply** – (What do I do?)  
What is the intended response of the folks who would have read this first? What were they called or ask to do?  
What do we take away from what we read?

## 5 questions to ask when reading Scripture?

Rather than reading try and be a student of the Word. These questions help us with this as well as get the point of Scripture and what God desires for us to hear and do. So again, work through the struggle and watch as God blesses this time.

1. What Does This Text Teach Me About God?
2. What Does This Text Teach Me About Man?
3. How Does This Text Point to Christ?
4. What do I need to know in light of this teaching?
5. What do I need to do in light of this teaching?

## 5 tips for a faithful, daily devotion

1. **Make it a priority** – stop making excuses and simply do what you know needs to be done in your walk with God. Enough is enough.
2. **Pray for guidance** – ask the Spirit to help you as you begin this time or if you've been doing this for years.
3. **Remove distractions** – you know how mad you get when someone interrupts your favorite song, show, book, game? Be that way with your time with the Lord.
4. **Plan for the Plan** - set aside a time and place but understand you don't have to be restricted with these. The important thing is doing it!
5. **Make it a Community Thing** – Get accountability! Bring your friends or family into it. If you go alone you'll not go far!

## Leading a Bible Study

Many of you are in a place where this is a reality. There is always the possibility to lead one at school or simply share at an FCA or First Priority. Maybe you feel like you are not equipped or able to do this. This is a lie. If you can read Scripture you can lead a discussion regarding what you've read. The key is confidence and tools. ON the previous page are some basic questions to ask as you read Scripture. Here are some more to help you in this.

These are great for small group studies but also good as you approach a text to later teach or really just better understand personally.

Either way....this is really good and from Leadership Resources.

### **1 to 1 Bible Reading:**



#### **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?

## **Got a Question you need help with?**

Write it out and hand it Chris or a leader and we'll offer help each week.

Many times these issues are dealt with as we walk through Scripture but sometimes we just get curious or a little impatient.

We realize there are broad statements in Scripture that address these things but also wrestle with wanting a specific verse that speaks directly to this issue.

So if this is you and you have some questions just let us know.

You don't have to put your mind on it but that helps us know to pray and how to possibly pray with you. It also cuts down on just putting something down to put something down.

But of course, if putting your name down means you don't have a question; don't put your name down.

**THE ROCK**  
**S T U D E N T M I N I S T R I E S**  
**P S . 6 1 : 2**

\* Devotions also available online at [therocksm.org](http://therocksm.org)  
open the .pdf file in iBooks or kindle and work away, work away.



## **Who are you, Lord?**

Remember Stephen a few chapters back? You remember his story right? Go back and read Acts 8:1 – who was present at his persecuting and eventual death? SAUL.

You know him by a different name and in a different light now because of God. After ordering and overseeing the death of Stephen Saul went on his way. He was still hard at work attempting to make life hard for the believers [Acts 9:1-2]. But something happened on the way to his next mission. God stepped in.

So much to see here really but the thing that gets me is the power of God to save the worst of the worst. That God would show His sovereignty in this manner, by saving the biggest enemy of the Christian church.

There's another side to this though too, Ananias. This is obviously not the one who died in Acts 5 but another guy who lived in Damascus. God had begun preparing his heart for this discipleship opportunity. God would save Saul (later Paul) but Ananias would be ask to help him.

Put this into our context. The leader of ISIS (the terrorist group) is crippled by God and an angel comes to you and says "I'm sending him your way. He's blind and you're going to help him. He's been killing Christians for a while now but now he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before America." What would you do?

I'd do the same thing as Ananias who said "But God, I've heard and seen so much terror this guy has brought to my people." Yes, it is a bit different because Paul was ordered by the government to do these things so I do see a huge difference. But in the churches eyes this was the greatest enemy they had, Saul, the persecutor of Churches. This is huge what God does in saving Saul. What follows in the next few chapters is even more amazing as God begins to use this new servant for the spreading of His fame and gospel.



### **What sticks out? What do we see?**

God's power in saving the worst of the worst



### **What is hard to understand? What's a question you would ask the writer?**

The way God sometimes works. Why do I expect to understand it all?



**What is the Main Idea:** God is mighty to save! Anyone, anytime, any place.



### **The Challenge: (How do I respond to what I read? How do I apply?)**

Share the gospel. Never discount the power of God in this working. Who is someone you can take the Gospel to?





**immediately he proclaimed Jesus...**

Saul was well schooled in the Old Testament. Will later hear of all his credentials but this guy was smart. Up until he met Christ he didn't have the truth. But once God blinded him and gave him new sight Saul could clearly see all he had been missing.

Once this happened Saul/Paul would become the greatest evangelistic we'd ever know. And he sure didn't waste any time, verse. 20. But naturally all the believers were like, "this has got to be some big plan to arrest and kill us right?" But God, through the Spirit, would strengthen Saul. God would not do this to make much of Saul would He? Take a look at verse 22 - why did God do this ultimately?

Have you ever seen one of those movies where someone goes to sleep and they wake up in a totally different situation? Like they go to bed poor, praying to be rich, and then they wake up with a new family, new job, new bank account? This is Saul.

Only for him it was opposite. He was walking one day full of worldly power and riches and in one moment was taken the opposite direction. Having nothing on this earth but riches in Heaven Saul would now view life from the other side of the tracks. Read v. 23-25.

**As Saul experienced a true life change we must ask ourselves this:**

1. What life change happened in my life after meeting Christ?
2. What directional changes have I experienced or does life simply look the same?



**What sticks out? What do we see?**

Saul immediately changed. Saul's life immediately changed. Things weren't great...he felt rejection and even threats on his life. The way the church eventually accepted Saul. How can I put this in my context? Who is a modern day Saul in my life? How would I respond?



**What is hard to understand? What's a question you would ask the writer?**

The heart of the Church. Though this was from God did they ever believe something this big could happen?



**What is the Main Idea:** God's working in our life is immediate. God does things for His glory and the good of others, even things we could never imagine.



**The Challenge: (How do I respond to what I read? How do I apply?)**

What if God saved a Saul at your school, how would you react? What life change has happened in your life? Is it clear or are you still holding onto things? I love how this section ends in v. 31...how I am walking out my life, faith?

## **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!



## *many believed in the Lord*

Remember Peter? He's the one who denied Christ 3 times just a few weeks earlier as Jesus was being beaten. This is the same Peter of Acts 2 who boldly presents Scripture. This is the same Peter who was thrown in jail and after getting out prayed for boldness rather than escape. Peter is a changed person. Why? What's different in Peter's life now? Good side question there.

As we pick back up with Peter we're really on the heels of something huge in his life and really our own lives. But first we see him being used of God through some healings. I've always been intrigued with healings of the Bible. I think too many people get caught up on God healing someone rather than why he healed them. Don't misunderstand that please. I think God desires to heal people and delights in that work. But I think in this passage we gain a greater understanding of why God heals. He heals for the same reason He does anything else, His glory.

God does everything He does for His name. We receive many blessings through this, even life really! But check out verse 35 and then verse 42. What happened because one was healed and one was brought to life?

Think about how God used Aeneas and Tabitha for His glory. Think about the love Tabitha's friends had for her as she passed. Think about what God wants to do in your life to make His fame known.


We've seen this all throughout Acts and we see it once again here; God is willing to do anything to make His Name known. Are we ok with this?

### **What sticks out? What do we see?**

Both times we see Peter say "rise." Any significance to this? It's important to see what's here. We never want to reach for something deeper that really isn't here. So we notice that people were healed. In light of this healing many people "turned to the Lord."

### **What is hard to understand? What's a question you would ask the writer?**

It doesn't mention it here but what kind of life do you think Aeneas and Tabitha lived after this? Tabitha appears to be a believer but do you think their lives were changed by this? How about your life? How have you been healed and how has this changed your life?

 **What is the Main Idea:** Again, God will do whatever it takes to turn the hearts of man to Himself.

 **The Challenge: (How do I respond to what I read? How do I apply?)**  
Trust in Him, seek Him, believe Him.



## *this is a big deal*

So much going on here and so much for us to be thankful about. I'm sure as you read the verses you may have been scratching your head a bit. What's going on here? What we see here is God preparing Peter to go and actually giving him the call to go to the Gentiles. The Gentiles are those outside of the Jewish nation.

If you go to Central you don't go to Carrollton. If you are a Heard County Brave you don't attend Haralson County. If you are not a Jew you are a Gentile. These were opposite, two different beliefs. But throughout time some gentiles began to practice Judaism. This is the religion of the Jews. Of course this was the Old Testament version of Christianity. News of Christ had not been accepted or heard at this point. God's heart was to send this message, the Gospel, to the world right? Acts 1:8. It began with a scattering in chapter 8 and now we see the first call to actually go to these people. It comes to Peter in the form of a dream.

God uses a Gentile, Cornelius, in this process and reminds us throughout this narrative of how often we possibly limit God. While Peter was "perplexed" or confused he still went. While Cornelius was curious and not totally sure of what was going on he sent men to meet Peter.

While the story keeps going I think it's good to stop here for today....feel free to read on but I think it's good for us to consider some things from these 33 verses.

Most importantly I think it's important to see that the Gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, is for all people and not just for the Jews. Today we see the Gospel going out, crossing barriers, and once again we see Peter on the front lines. This one who was eager to talk but scared to act is now leading the way!



### **What sticks out? What do we see?**

The willingness of Peter and Cornelius to follow God's leading.



### **What is hard to understand? What's a question you would ask the writer?**

How scary is it to follow God into uncertainty? Have you ever experienced this? What's been the toughest situation for you where your faith was challenged?



**What is the Main Idea:** The Gospel is not for the Jews only but for all.



### **The Challenge: (How do I respond to what I read? How do I apply?)**

Do you see uncertainty as a negative or something to embrace?

# Wednesday, August 5 Acts 10:34-48

*amazed...*

Peter opens his mouth. For me this never gets old. Continuously we see the need for people to open their mouth to share the gospel. Consider how much we open our mouths to say things that are really unneeded. We say things that do not add one decent thing to the conversation. But we open our mouths a lot!

Peter is in the midst of Gentiles, non-Jews. Peter understand that God doesn't show partiality but Peter's mind was about to be blown as God pours out His blessing on those who were not Jewish.

Verse 44 says that as Peter was talking the Holy Spirit fell on these Gentiles. This is to say that God filled them. What they had experienced with God before now was knowledge. Now there was a filling. To say the Holy Spirit fell on them was to say that it filled. The Holy Spirit didn't trip! This is a fruit of knowing God through Christ, the Holy Spirit fills us and our lives look different. There is evidence.

So in short this long chapter is the birth of the Gospel to the Gentiles. This would be where the majority, if not all, of us should be excited. I don't think we have any Jews in our midst but until this point Christianity belonged to the Jews, Israel. But God never planned for this to stay this way. God chose a nation, Israel, the Jews, from which to bless the nations. Ultimately He did this through Jesus and now we see this blessing, prophecy, coming true. The Gospel reaches the Gentiles.

This would later cause friction in the early church but for now we relish in the joy of hope reaching the hopeless.



## **What sticks out? What do we see?**

So many things. Hope reaching the hopeless. Do you ever feel hopeless? Consider how God pulled you from your lowest state, sin, and cleansed you. Do you realize you could never be worse off than how you were before Christ? I think about Peter opening his mouth to share the gospel. How often to open my mouth to say stupid things and how often I open it to share Truth/the Gospel? I think about the Holy Spirit being a fruit of salvation. Do I see this fruit?



## **What is hard to understand? What's a question you would ask the writer?**

When belief clashes with reality. Peter knew God was not partial but then right before his eyes Gentiles are filled with the Spirit, this had to be a clash.



**What is the Main Idea:** The main way for us to share God grace and mercy and love is with our mouth. We can't expect our actions to speak louder than what we're willing to say with out mouth.



## **The Challenge: (How do I respond to what I read? How do I apply?)**

Am I sharing with my mouth? Is there fruit of salvation? Gospel?

# To Save A Life Movie Event

August 1 – 5:30 to 9:00 pm

(We'll have pizza)

Students need to bring a snack or drink with them.

On **Saturday August 1<sup>st</sup>** we will be showing a movie at The Rock. The movie is a sensitive movie but one that speaks loudly to a huge need in our culture. I would recommend sending your student to see the movie and be involved in the discussion that will follow. We do need to communicate that there are some scenes portrayed that are a little crude. These scenes lead to an event (suicide) that ultimately changes the heart of one student who then begins to live unapologetically for Christ. It's a convicting; honest movie that we hope will help turn the hearts of our students to also live a life that is unashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Below is a letter of recommendation from a parent. Laura has a strong desire to show this movie and offer a time of discussion to our students. She has been huge in coordinating this event and is willing to discuss the movie in detail with anyone who has further questions.

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Dear Youth Parents,

I would like to encourage you to allow your youth (grades 6-12) to participate in the movie and following discussion on August 1<sup>st</sup>. I would like to warn you that some very heavy but very pertinent topics would be addressed. All the major issues faced by teens today are addressed including: suicide, bullying, cutting, drinking, drugs, parental pressure, premarital sex, fear of failure, dating, parents' divorce, hypocrisy, teen pregnancy, loneliness, self-worth, peer pressure, school violence, pressure to succeed, abortion, college stress, and rejection. The movie takes a Biblical stance and encourages teens to make a positive difference in their schools. I am excited about the opportunity that my girls, Mallorie (going into 7<sup>th</sup> grade) and Brianna (going into 9<sup>th</sup> grade), will have to view this movie with their youth group and discuss the issues in a setting where adults care for them and can give them godly guidance. Even more than that, I am looking forward to the impact that all of our youth can have in our schools and the positive difference they can make!

Sincerely,

Laura Colquitt