



Sunday:

Sunday School – 9:45 am

Worship – 10:45 am

Wednesday:

The Rock Wednesday – 6:45pm

BIG EVENTS:

Meet & Greet – September 20th

Refuel – MLK Weekend 2016

DNOW – (early Spring)

Summer Camp – June 2016

Upcoming Events:

MEET & GREET coming September 20th.

Meet & Greet is an opportunity to meet the student ministry, pick up a ministry plan and ask questions. We always want to make ourselves available!

This is also the time to sign up for Refuel and Summer Camp and receive a discount. Signing up early helps us plan most effectively.

Lastly, meet & greet is an opportunity for students and parents not connected with the Rock on Wednesdays to get plugged in and learn more about what we do.

Coming this Fall:

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

- - - REFUEL - MLK WEEKEND (45 Student Spots) - - -

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
STUDENT MINISTRIES
P S . 6 1 : 2

* Devotions also available online at therocksm.org
open the .pdf file in iBooks or kindle and work away, work away.

**Drama, here we go**

Teenagers are not the only ones to experience drama. Drama is a bad animal that will always raise its head up at the worst possible times. Drama is not the main point or thing to notice in these verses but it is something to think about. Drama comes from pride. We all struggle with pride. So maybe as you read consider how you too deal with drama, pride, jealousy. Maybe think and work through how you too can be this way but then be encouraged with the ending of this section.

We know from how chapter 10 ended that the gentiles (non-Jews) had heard and responded to the Gospel and had been filled with the Spirit. Chapter 11 picks up with the news traveling to other believers throughout Judea. When they heard what was going down (Peter being around gentiles) they were ticked. Drama unfolds!

We jump to conclusions real quick, at least I do. Some things to think about were that God gave these guys, Jews, some pretty strict commands in order for them to remain pure. So really they were attempting to honor God and remain pure though they handled it a bit wrong. But don't we do this? In an attempt to be holy and pure we often snub our noses at people? We must be careful not to become so religious that we lose out on the joy of being in relationship with Christ..

So Peter explains the dream and vision and in v. 16 offers some extra help he remembered from what Jesus had said. After this comes the statement for us to hold onto. Verse. 17 – **“who was I that I could stand in God’s way?”**

For about 2000 years Jesus has been calling and leading people to do things that would cause questions, doubts, amazement and even drama. But at the end of each day we have only one audience to please. I'm praying for you that it's the Lord. I'm praying that we all say at Peter “who am I to stand in God's way.”

In other words...when it comes between man's approval and God's command I must follow God's command. I trust God and leave the results up to Him. It doesn't always work out this way but we hope the people around respond like the guys in this passage. It says they become silent, the drama ceased...and they glorified God.

Why? because repentance and life has now come to the Gentiles.

This would be me and you and all the people in the world who were not Jewish. The Gospel is now heading to the uttermost parts of the world!



What sticks out to you? What do you see? What is something that needs to be talked about?



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



What is the Main Idea? What is the heart of the passage?



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

**true labels....**

Have you ever been labeled something? Have you ever labeled something or someone? I've labeled shirts, files, letters, people, animals, body parts of sharks, frogs and snakes during lab dissections. We really label things all the time don't we.

You would think that Christians themselves would have placed the Christian label. In our pursuit of labeling things we often even label ourselves. Prep, jock, diva, gangsta, singer, cutie, ??? I'm not sure of all the labels going around now but I'm sure that we often try to live a certain way to achieve a label or we just go ahead and give ourselves a label and then try and live up to it.

In this last part of Acts 11 we see the first time Christians were called Christians. This label was not something that they came up with themselves. They didn't have a meeting before leaving Jerusalem and vote on what to call themselves. The label, the name, the nickname came from outside. That's crazy....people watched them live and then determined they were following Christ. So the label Christians came about.

There are some other things things....we'll pull them out in a minute. But I think it's real important to ask ourselves some questions. Like this: what label would you receive from these people if they were observing your life? Yes, there is a part of us that shouldn't worry about how people label us. But shouldn't we be a little concerned about how we're perceived? Shouldn't Christ be so real in our lives that He becomes apart of our identity? If I took away my church attendance is their enough proof in my life to be called a Christian?

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

The Gospel was still only being shared to the Jews by Saul and Barnabas. This will come up later. The Christian label was given from outside the faith.

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

I'll leave this to you....what are some questions you have? Don't keep these to yourself, ask something about what's hard to understand.



What is the Main Idea: Our walk with God, through Christ, produces a life of faith, fruit and the Spirit.

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

Am I worried about labels? What label am I aspiring to receive? What label does my life deserve? How much should I worry about labels? How much of my life is a life of faith and the Spirit? How much fruit is there?

Maybe today I forget the labels and simply live in the freedom of Christ. Walking with Him and allowing everything else to simply work out?

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!



The persecution turns deadly but the Lord continues to deliver

Not sure if you remember this but back in Mark 8:31-33 Jesus was telling of how He would be killed but then rise again 3 days later. Peter, struggling with this news and I'm guessing not hearing the "rise again 3 days later" Peter, rebuked Jesus. This is not recommended, rebuking Jesus. But Peter did. The disciples continually misunderstood Jesus' teaching about life and the kingdom of God. But really, how could they understand without the Helper, the Holy Spirit.

Now fast forward to Peter's present day and consider how much things have changed, physically, spiritually and mentally. The church is scattered, people are constantly being thrown into jail, persecution is getting more severe yet the church is growing and the Spirit is at work in the lives of the believers.

Now in the text for today we see some new developments in this growing story of the early church. We see another death from persecution in James. This is not the author of the book of James, Jesus's brother, who is mentioned in verse 17 but the disciple James, the son of Zebedee and brother of John (Matthew 4:21, 20:23).

In the text we also see Peter imprisoned again and later set free by the Spirit. Rather than explain or write about that I'll just let you read and make sense of that.

The two things I love from this text is the growth we see in the disciples. We started the devotion looking back at how far they've come. From confusion to certainty. They have grown and it really took Jesus leaving and the Helper coming before this happened. Jesus told them this would be case. But this new Peter is now bold and firm in his faith. This is not the Peter, by the fire, denying Christ. (John 18:15-27)

It's amazing the difference between a man strengthened life and a spirit filled life. Which life are you living? From where does your help and strength come from?



What sticks out? What do we see?

The peace of Peter in the midst of uncertainty. Don't be fooled, this comes from the Spirit.



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

What do you think? Anything hard to get?



What is the Main Idea: The Spirit filled life brings peace and strength.



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

I must live life in the Spirit, fully leaning on His strength and not my own.

**God is a very jealous God.**

It's never a good idea to oppose God or attempt to steal from Him. We saw this in Acts 5 when Ananias and Saphira attempted to keep things from the Lord. We see it again here with Herod, the king. He was a huge enemy of the early church and the disciples. Continually he would order persecution and judgment against the disciples. This would be the last time Herod would oppose God. What Herod had meant for evil God had been using for good. But all this was about to end.

What was the straw that broke the camels back? Verse 22.

What happens in verse 22? Herod basically had become as a god to the people. He accepted this and now the people were recognizing him as a god. This was not acceptable to the one and only God. Kings of these days often controlled people. With food, power, supplies, threats and needs the kings of these days would control the people under them. It would cause the people to view them as a god. But now king has ever lived forever accept one. No king has met every need accept one. No king has truly given what the people needed accept one King. When you oppose this one true King you oppose His Father, God. This is not a good thing.

Notice what happens when king Herod dies. This major player in history passes away but (v.24) the word of God increased and multiplied. No power in this world has authority or control over God. If we need further convincing consider Romans 8.

We must consider some things from our text today. We must ask some questions. Be honest, how often is your heart like Herod's heart? How often do you seek to become a "god?" Desiring power and control of your own life you oppose the one true King who can truly meet every need. Do you seek to control friends, relationships, parents, teachers? Do you make it difficult for others to truly know and follow Him? Are you a source of weakness or encouragement to others?

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

I'm quick to mock Herod but ever quicker to realize how often I am him at times and except for the grace of God would be worse than Herod.

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

Blastus? what a name! Any questions for you here? Write them down, discuss them with someone. Never let unsettled questions linger!



What is the Main Idea: Nothing will prevent the word of God from increasing and multiplying.

**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 12 Acts 13:1-12

the first of many...

The missionary journeys of Paul are well documented. It all begin here in Acts 13. I love maps and when I was little I especially loved the maps in my Bible. Hopefully you have a Bible with maps. If you don't have one maybe you can go digging around your house, or your grandparents house. One of the maps you'll see will no doubt be the missionary journeys of Paul.

Paul is hanging out with some guys worshiping and fasting. They were waiting and while they waited they were simply enjoying the presence of God. Have you ever been waiting for what was next? Saul was...they weren't too sure what to do next so they did what they knew to do...worship God. In this moment God spoke to them. Barnabas and Saul were set apart for a specific work. No drama, no fighting, no resistance, they simply prayed for these guys and sent them off.

So Saul and Barnabas were off running on what would be the first mission trip ever and the most fruitful, productive and famous mission trip ever.

We also see the name change go down. Saul turns to Paul. Why? Saul was a Hebrew name...a strong Jewish name. Saul was going to the land of the Gentiles, the opposite of a Jew. Remember last week...the Jews and Gentiles really were on two different sides so much that the Jews were a little hesitant about taking the Gospel to the Gentiles. It took God convincing them that the Gospel was for everyone. So Saul would become known as Paul, his Roman name. This name would be more accepted and less offensive and scary for the Gentiles he was trying to reach with the Gospel. The only time you'll see the name Saul referenced from this point on is when earlier events are recalled.



What sticks out? What do we see?

If you read the text you know there's more than just what the above mention. So what sticks out to you? What do you see?



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

Think of this...what is going on that is kind of like what we see today? But also, is anything hard for you to understand? What happens in verse 12?



What is the Main Idea: Though opposition is everywhere the Spirit fills us to overcome the dark with the light, the Gospel!



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

Share the Gospel! Don't' allow opposition to win. But how? simply rely on the Spirit and share the Gospel, be the light, go and show!

MEET & GREET

September 20th – following AM Service
(In the Café)

come enjoy some coffee and/or donuts.

On **Sunday, September 20th**, we'll have our Rock Meet & Greet. The Meet & Greet is a simple time for us as a Youth Ministry to make ourselves available to students and parents. We realize that not all the students of our church are connected and not all the parents of RRBC know we exist or what we're about. So we hope to connect. We hope to meet you and answer any questions. We hope to let you know we're for each family of students in our church.

One simple reason for our Meet & Greet is to ensure we have your correct information. So take the time to fill out a card and help us keep our contact information up to date. We love to email you as parents. Without your email this is difficult!

We'll have a ministry guide for you to take home and read. It gives an idea of our end goal as a ministry and then some specific ways we hope to reach this end. This guide will also have some dates and specifics for the 2015-2016 year.

ALSO during our Meet & Greet we offer discounts for our upcoming trips, two in particular. Anyone placing a deposit for our winter retreat and summer camp will receive discounts.

- For **Refuel** (MLK Weekend) you receive a \$10 discount with a \$20 deposit.
- For **Summer Camp** you will receive a \$20 discount with a \$20 deposit.

This discount will be good for this day only. Yes, if you bring it back that evening to church that will count. After the Meet & Greet day the regular price will be reflected. So hopefully you'll drop by and see us and make your deposit on these two amazing trips. If you're not sure about these trips take some time to discuss them with our leaders who would love to meet and talk with you.

So we hope to see you at Meet & Greet! Stop by and at least say hello!