



**Sunday:**

Sunday School – 9:45 am

Worship – 10:45 am

**Wednesday:**

The Rock Wednesday – 6:45pm

**BIG EVENTS:**

Meet & Greet – September 20<sup>th</sup>

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. Refuel signups are now underway! We're headed back to Laughing Bear!

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) - - -**

place a deposit by September 20<sup>th</sup> for a \$20 discount

### **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.



## *Paul speaks....*

So school is 6 days old for many...you've been there long enough to get adjusted and I'm sure at least one of your teachers ask this question...."How was your summer?" Or maybe it was something like....."Anyone go anywhere interesting this summer?" Or possibly it was more like "What was the most exciting thing you did this summer?" It's a typical way to start the school year. It's gets folks talking and allows us to talk about the thing we love to talk about most.....us.

But what do we do with the opportunities we get to speak of God's grace and love? How quick are we to speak up in class when there is an obvious opportunity for us to bear witness of Jesus and His love? For some reason this is the hardest time to speak up isn't it? We offer excuse after excuse and in the end we desire the respect of our peers more than the blessing of God. Paul's boldness is not the biggest thing going on in the text but we can learn much from Paul. Don't pass up on the opportunity to tell of the goodness of God and His gospel.

We can also learn what to say as Paul shares a simple Gospel witness when given the opportunity to speak. It's just he and Barnabas now. As they are in the synagogue (Jewish Church) the rulers give them an opportunity to speak. "do you have a word of encouragement for us?" And Paul gives his first sermon. Essentially Paul shares three big things....I want you to look for them as you read. He shares a lot of Old Testament history and then of God's ultimate provision in Jesus Christ and then last he gives an invitation to believe in Christ.

It's in what Paul shares that we see the meat of the passage and heart of the gospel message we aim to take out and share each day of our lives! God's doing a work!



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

Where do you see the elements of the Gospel in Paul's Sermon



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

How does the Old Testament point to the Gospel and Christ? Have you ever considered that the New Testament believers only has the Old Testament to read and present?



### **What is the Main Idea:** God, through Christ,

has done a work that is unbelievable!



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

How often do I take advantage of sharing the Gospel? How often do I see God's salvation as something unbelievable? Am I too giving people an invitation to believe in Jesus? In the end....what does my life revolve around? What provisions am I trusting in....God's or something else?

**they began rejoicing...**

Have you ever had the opportunity to give someone something that they were so excited about? Maybe at Christmas, or a birthday party or just in general? I love being involved in giving folks things that they truly love and “rejoice” in.

Paul and Barnabas had this opportunity. We really have this opportunity every day. I’m thinking a lot about you guys today as you start school. By the time you read this you’ve been in school a week. But right now, as I’m writing this, it’s Thursday, the first day of school for most of you. I’m praying and have prayed that you seize every opportunity to show and share Christ, in your actions and with your voice. In how respond to teachers, students, assignments, and disappointments I pray you reflect Christ. There will be moments you walk into and moments you create that Christ can be shown. I pray you jump on these moments will all you’ve got. Don’t allow one day to go by without seeing the seriousness of each day and moment.

Paul seized the opportunity and the gentiles rejoiced in hearing the Gospel. But for as many as were rejoicing there were Jews who were ticked off. Why were they mad? They were mad because they thought salvation was only for them. They missed the memo that came in verse 47. We’ve looked at this already but God was now including the world in the Gospel message, not just Jews.

So there is really two things going on here.....maybe even three. Paul was faithful to seize the day, the gentiles were happy to receive eternal life, the Jews (religious folks) were mad that they had to share, and God was mighty to save. So really 4 things we see from this passage. What is the takeaway from you? What is the application?

So maybe you can walk through the questions below and make this text personal.



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



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



**What is the Main Idea: (NAIL THIS DOWN)**



**The Challenge: (How do I respond to what I read? How do I apply?)**  
SPEND TIME A LOT OF TIME HERE

## **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!



## it wasn't always sunshine and lollipops...

I guess we can read portions of the story of the early church and say it was easy for these guys to follow Christ during this time. Yes there were some issues but how could it be bad when God was so present with them? That would be an inaccurate statement, as each turn would bring some sort of persecution or trial. Yes the very Spirit of God was with them each step, but easy???

We can learn great things from the early church. Their faithfulness to God in the midst of trials is not the main thing we see but definitely something we must be encouraged and challenged by as we read. We could easily say the very Spirit of God was with them each step but isn't He with us for each of our steps as well?

God is in the midst of using people to begin the church. This is going on during a time where there is much resistance. Other religions, beliefs, are present and in the midst of this we see a people called to live differently. This is great encouragement.

Today's reading is no different. Two beliefs clash, Paul and Barnabas escape a stoning (remember Stephen). They even deal with people thinking they are gods (v.11). Even worse than this the people chasing Paul, for speaking the Gospel, catch him, stone him, and leave him for dead in the street. Not exactly an easy calling.

Makes me ask myself what my excuse is in following Christ, or not following Him. What is the hardest thing I have faced? Is my life really this easy because my mouth is shut? Is persecution distant because I don't really put myself out there as a faithful follower of Christ? Do my words not pierce because I'm keeping my words and testimony to myself? Why is my life so easy?



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

Did you notice the reference to Micah 4:5 (camp verse for 2014). God will allow us to walk in our own ways but will never stop providing or making Himself known to us. Much like Romans 1, He never gives up on us.



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



### **What is the Main Idea: (NAIL THIS DOWN)**

God will always be for you. In the midst of death, life, sun and rain, He is there and is for your good and His glory. Trust Hi



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

What's the challenge for you? What do we/you need to apply today?



## *Jesus is enough...*

Hey! Don't look now but you're halfway through the book of Acts if you've been consistent in the devotions. Let's finish strong and be faithful in seeing what the Bible says. By doing these "unflashy" devo's you're building a great discipline in reading the Word. Love it - Learn it - Live it. Let this be our anthem!

We stumble across an issue today. There always seemed to be a struggle or a disagreement. Think about it though. All these guys ever had was the Old Testament and their God was a God of the Jews. He had requirements for this group of people, the law. But remember through Peter God communicated that salvation was now for all, not just the Jews. But there were people among the group that still held to this old way of thinking. Now they were saying circumcision was to still be practiced. Circumcision was a symbol. Big word there....it was a symbol, an outward sign of an inward change. It was a hang-up. It had it's purpose but as Peter said....it was simply a "yoke on the neck" of people. Big point....Jesus was enough. There was no need for anything extra.

We do this too though....maybe not with circumcision but we put unreal expectations on people don't we? We add a little bit to what it means to follow Christ. Rather than freedom we add chains. But in the end verse 11 sums up what is required and the good news is this; it doesn't depend on what we do. Read verse 11 again. How should we respond to this? How did they respond? Read ahead a little bit and look at the first part of verse 12. Do you see it? They all fell silent. You can't argue with the grace of God and what He has done.

So maybe we stop adding weight to something only God can do. Rather than putting our own personal touch on salvation and the gospel we simply take it as it is; a miracle by God we can't earn or perfect. It's only by His grace we are saved and it's only by His working.



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

What sticks out to you in the verses?



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

What is a question you would ask?



### **What is the Main Idea:** What would you say the main idea is?



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

How do we apply this? Do the work here, don't be lazy!



## *a relief....*

Being delivered from rules and regulations is a bit freeing isn't it? It can be as small as getting a go-cart supervisor who says "go ahead and bump" rather than "no bumping please!" It can be like your teacher saying "sit wherever you like" rather than having assigned seating. For the gentiles it was more like "you don't have to be circumcised. Needless to say, they were happy! But how many times in life do we continue adding burdens? Many of you right now have burdens placed on you that are simply not fair or unreasonable. You do this and other do this to you.

If we are not careful we can turn a beautiful relationship into something different. The hard part for me is knowing there are things I should do; read my Bible, pray, do good, love others, go to church, but then doing these things from love, not duty.

Do you struggle with this? Do you struggle to find the love in doing things that seem like rules or work? Is there a heart to read Scripture? Is there a heart to go to church? Is there a heart to do good? Is there a realization that we do these things out of love rather than law? Do we have a relationship with Christ that compels or leads us to pursuing these things?

After reading these Scriptures I'm very convicted. I need to make sure I hold people, and myself, accountable to do good but to do so with the heart being the motivation. We will never perform good enough. We will never be good enough. That's the hope of the gospel. God doing for us what we are incapable of doing for ourselves.

Don't add burdens to your faith or the faith of others but rather strive to love God and follow Christ. Work hard at it but never allow the relationship to be clouded by duty.



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

What sticks out to you?



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

Do you follow where we're going or is there a question you have?



### **What is the Main Idea:** Relationship is always better than Duty.

You see a better to say the main idea?



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

I think the challenge is clear and has been stated. But how do you make this personal? What are some specific things for you moving forward?

How do you need to respond to what we've read?

# MEET & GREET

September 20<sup>th</sup> – following AM Service  
(In the Café)

come enjoy some coffee and/or donuts.

On **Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**, 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!