



Sunday:

Sunday School – 9:45 am

Worship – 10:45 am

Wednesday:

The Rock Wednesday – 6:45pm

BIG EVENTS:

KICK OFF NIGHT – September 2

Meet & Greet – September 20th

Refuel – MLK Weekend 2016

DNOW – (early Spring)

Summer Camp – June 2016

Upcoming Events:

September 2nd – Kick off night (SNOW CONES!)

SEPTEMBER 20 - MEET & GREET (after AM service)

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 (when it gets a bit cooler and the snakes leave)
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 20th for a \$20 discount

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.



why can't we be friends?

I guess we just always think the apostles always got along. Sure, we had the whole Acts 5 thing but really everything we read leads to think that everybody has gotten along. Of course we don't see every moment and we can never forget that these guys and gals are normal, like us. There has to be drama right? Yep!

We can learn some things about God as we see these follower of Christ have some drama. I really want you to discover it for yourselves but really don't want you to miss it either! How about this....you read the text again and think through this.

1. What does verse 36 say they are going to go do?
2. What would this involve? What do you think they would do when there?
3. What happens in verse 37-38?
4. What does verse 37-38 lead to in verse 39a? (first part of v. 39)
5. What is the end result? In other words....how many trips were planned prior to the argument and how many are now planned after the argument?

Here's the end for me....they had planned one trip to revisit all the cities they'd visited so far. They would go back and continue discipleship and make sure everything was cool. An argument arose about one individual going. Barnabas wanted to take John Mark. Paul didn't simply because he didn't originally go to each city with them and so for some reason didn't see it a good thing for him to go. Small thing right? This leads to a serious argument and eventually separates the original team. Silliness? Maybe God working behind the scenes? This is a small way to say the Sovereignty of God. God working in ways we could never see. God always pushing His plan and working out His agenda in every situation.

So now, rather than one trip, we have two. Their labor was now doubled. More people would hear of Christ and more people would be disciple.

What do we learn. God is always working and God always has a plan!
Also - don't let the fight get your mind off the fact that Paul was going back to see the folks he originally led to Christ...think Missions, Honduras. The mission is not a one time deal...it's a partnership and requires work and discipleship!

Take a few minutes & think through these questions on your own:



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?



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

meet Timothy...

Paul had one guy that was closer to him than anyone else, Timothy. We meet Timothy today as Paul and Silas head to Lystra where Timothy lived. It's really neat to see them meet and then to go to 1st & 2nd Timothy and read what Paul write to Timothy at the end of his life, Paul's life. Paul mentored Timothy. He took him along with him on these journeys and poured into him. The next few chapters are really cool because they connect the letters Paul would later write to different churches and people. Thessalonians, Philippians, Colossians, Corinthians, Titus and Timothy, among others, all find their start here. That's cool and helps us connect some dots.

Today's verses give us much more than Paul meeting Timothy though. Does anything jump out to you that helps us learn some things about God, Jesus, us?

Take a few minutes and look at the verses and think....see anything? How does it start? What goes on in the middle? How does it end?

As we work through what's going on we can really just bullet them:

- Paul and Silas meet Timothy, a believer.
- Timothy is circumcised to not cause any Jewish believers to stumble. They must not have heard that part in Acts 15:1-11. But there wasn't facebook, email or texting back then...so they did what they thought was right.
- Paul, Silas and Timothy then headed out...but to where? Not Asia...timing wasn't good for some reason but the Spirit made it clear they were not to go.
- The Macedonian Call. Through a dream Paul is convinced that Macedonia is where they should go....this is where we find the subjects of nearly the remainder of the New Testament.

So what do you draw from this timeline? That's really what is there in the text. Nothing radical, unless you view this amazing call to go to a people whom have never heard the gospel. So that's pretty big right?

But two things jump out to me:

1. Asia was not for Paul. Why? Not sure but we do know others would go there. But God had something else in mind for Paul. A 400 mile journey to Troas was in store and Paul was faithful to go.
2. Paul immediately went. His faithfulness to God was crazy. Much like the disciples Paul didn't need much reasoning. Sure there were times when there was doubt and even imperfection but Paul was sure about one thing, God was to be trusted. There were time when Paul wasn't sure what to do or where to go....but as he waited for clarity he went and he spoke Truth

How are you at trusting God? Don't know the specific just yet? That's ok! But are you serving in the meantime? Are you waiting around or are you serving?

Think about this....is there a Paul in your life? a Timothy? What's next for you?

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!



Phillipians

The next few weeks our devos will look like normal devotions rather than walking you through the one to one method. But we do encourage you to keep working that out. We'll come back to it from time to time and even put the symbols and questions in there from time to time. But keep working that out and grow in your ability to read and understand the Word of God. Involve others! Here's a weird challenge.

This week at your lunch table begin discussing your favorite Bible verse. Ask those around you if they have a favorite verse or story from Scripture. What is it and why? Take the challenge, put yourselves out there!

Ok, today we come to Acts 16 and begin to see the first church Paul establishes, Phillipians. Now get this...I was probably in my twenties before I started making these connections in the Bible. Until then the Bible really didn't come alive to me. I trusted it, loved it, desired to obey it but I really struggled in understanding it fully. This was mainly because I didn't see how it connected. I didn't understand it was one big story. I failed to see the little parts making up the whole. I never knew that all of these people Paul was writing to (Philippi, Thessalonica, Ephesus, Corinth, Colosse) were actually places and people that would make up the books like Phillipians, Thessalonians, Ephesians, Corinthians, Colossians.

I want you to see the connection. So really the big idea of today's devotion is this; The Bible is ONE book. It is one book with many parts, authors, stories, twists and turns. The Bible has one main character, GOD. So as we read it and understand it we understand God in a greater way. So please see these connections. Understand how it all fits together. This connection in Acts to the rest of Paul's letters is fun, interesting, and helpful. Don't go any further in your reading until this begins to click.

What you see in Acts 16 and what you read in Phillipians may not resonate or make sense with one another. In other words, Paul doesn't do what he does in Acts 16 and then turn around and begin writing Phillipians. The letters to this church happens later in life. He would later write to all the churches he began here in Acts. He would write most of these from jail. So it's neat to see them begin and then go and read what he has to say at the end of his life.

Turn to and read Phillipians 1:3-6. This is big to know and see. It does apply to us all but will mean so much more once you hear the story of the 3 key individuals that God uses to start this church. Keep in mind....Phillipians is an actual letter to these people, to be read aloud, in its entirety. So Lydia, and the other two, would be in the crowd listening. So it's a good foundational verse to read before we get into their story in Acts 16.

So a different devo today but think through this:

How much time, attention, focus do I give God's Word? Is it a secondary thing or a big thing to me? Read Psalm 119:14. Can I say this?

Maybe the challenge today is simple – care more for the Word of God.

Evaluate how much I understand, give myself to it, and cherish it.

There are many people who love to have one page...much less the whole thing.

Never take for granted the privilege we have in holding this Book!



It only takes 3

When we think about the church we think about a wide range of people who make it up. What we see in our verses is really no different that what we see in our own church. Take a quick glance at the 3 people Paul meets while in Philippi. These people would no doubt eventually be the foundation for the church there.

Lydia – Lydia was a bit wealthy. She believed in God and worshipped Him but had placed her faith in Christ. God opened her heart during Paul's visit and she heard for the first time the truth of Christ. Lydia was influential and God would use her to start and build this church

The slave girl – After they met Lydia they headed for the place of prayer. Along the way a slave girl kept annoying them (v.18). Paul then command the spirit to come out and it later would. Pretty crazy and really something I would like to know more about. Not really the spirit casting our part but about the girl. What happened to her? Surely she was a part of the church there right?

The Jailer – After they casted out the spirit the owner of the girl was mad. She was making them some mad money! So the owner had Paul and Silas thrown into jail. Of course God is stronger than any prison cell and he cause the door of the cell to open (v.25-26). Here's the thing...in this day if you were to lose a prisoner you would lose your life. This jailer was toast. But then verse 28 happens. Then verse 29 happens and then 30 and so on. End result? The jailer is saved along with his household.

Three people from all different areas of life brought together under one name, Jesus. You can read the rest of the story to see how it ends but I want to focus on the people of the story. What do we learn? What should we apply? Do we learn anything about God, Jesus, us?

I think we do:

1. Never give up on any person no matter how good or how bad you think they have it. You never know what is going on but you can know their greatest need. God can use anyone to influence His kingdom!
2. In light of #1 we know that God is powerful.
3. Jesus is more than enough.

The whole jailhouse thing is pretty amazing but don't get caught up in God unlocking a cell. Really? That's big but he changed 3 people's lives in that same chapter; A rich person, a slave girl, and a jailer. A white collar girl, blue collar guy and a messed up girl all forever changed and representing all the make up our planet. I think that's the big thing here. God changes the unchangeable.

If He hasn't given up on them why should we?

Be a friend to the friendless. Love the unlovable. Reach the "unreachable."

turning the world upside down

Paul and the gang arrive in Thessalonica (I and II Thessalonians) and head straight to the synagogue. That's interesting to me. It's interesting because of the comments made by these jealous Jews in verse 6. They claimed that Paul and these men were turning the world upside down. Even the opponents of the gospel knew that this was a movement that was impacting the world....albeit their world.

When you think of someone "turning the world upside down" what comes to mind? I mean typically isn't it something extravagant or exciting? But what does Paul do as he enters into a town? He visits the synagogue and begins reasoning with them from Scriptures. This means he visits the people at their church and begins to show them Christ from the Scriptures. Nothing fancy right? I mean the spread of the Gospel and the mighty work of salvation God was performing were special, extravagant and huge but that was all God. These guys accused Paul and the "men" of turning the world upside down and all they were doing was sharing Christ from Scripture.

Doesn't this sound like something we could do? Think about it....Paul and Timothy and Silas were simply having conversations with people from Scripture. This was nothing fancy! God was doing the fancy part. God was doing the work behind the scenes to change the hearts of the people. Paul and Silas and even Timothy were never required to do anything they couldn't do. They weren't required to create any super powers or try and get real smart. They just continued sharing all they've seen and heard. The formula is not hard! Just share Christ from Scripture.

But that leaves us in a place of decision really:

1. Will I get in the Word to know the Word to be able to show Christ from the Word?
2. Will I open my mouth to begin a conversation about Christ?
3. Will I continue to go after being hunted down from place to place?
4. Will I quit when things get tough or see the bigger picture and trust God?
5. Will I keep it simple or turn my faith in Christ into something more than a relationship? Will I add to it or see the simplicity?
6. How can I make this real to me? Where is my Thessalonica and Philippi?

Some extra and possible random thoughts:

It's kind of neat to read the letters Paul wrote to these people. For instance, in 1 Thessalonians 2:2 we learn that as Paul arrives in Thessalonica there is a great conflict going on. We can learn a little about this conflict by reading 1 Thessalonians. Be reminded...Paul is on a missionary journey...visiting various towns with the Gospel. He will later return to visit them as well as write several letters. Follow the trail, see the connection, and understand the story of the Bible. Thessalonica was about 94 miles from Philippi. The Jews are still jealous over the gentiles receiving Christ.

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!