



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

SIGN UP AT THE CHALKBOARD IN THE BACK OF THE ROCK.

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.



always be ready...

We left Paul heading towards Athens. I know what you're thinking, Athens Georgia. No, Paul wasn't going to visit UGA, he was in Greece. Greece was a huge playground for big thinkers. People there loved discussing the latest and greatest ideas. Anything and everything was ok as long as you could properly communicate and discuss it. Greece was liberal, loose and looked a lot like what mainstream America looks like today. So Paul notices the place was a bit loose and then heads to the synagogue, just as he does in every city.

Now here's the deal...almost a side note. When you get to a place where you accept anything and everything, like the folks in Athens, you find that you rarely stand for anything. Shouldn't there be a standard above every other standard? Shouldn't there be an authority or way of thinking that is superior to everything else? Paul thought so and was quick to share this. But a warning for us is to not be too quick to be so accepting of everything in fear of not standing for anything. The fear is we come across as prideful or snobbish, so we just go with it, accepting everything. The danger is you'll fall victim to not standing firm on the truth of God's Word.

You've probably noticed that Acts is a journal type book. Acts records the birth of the church and then follows it through several years to see it experience growth.

Acts is an action word right? So the book of Acts is telling us of the action of the Church. It's giving us information of how it came about and what it did. There is teaching for sure but we'll see this in a greater way in Paul's later letters.

So now we're to the point where we're following Paul as he visits cities and establishes churches. So in the timeline of events Paul is just getting on the scene to these places. Keep that in mind and see the bigger picture as you read. Back to the story.

Paul finds himself in a place that believed a bit different than he did. Hello! Look at your own life....talk to people....go get a coffee and just strike up a conversation. People in Carrollton are not all on the same page are they?

Think through this, and I'm not playing God or Holy Spirit here. But maybe the reason nobody is asking to meet with you to discuss this "new way of thinking" you bring to the table is because you aren't showing anything that leads to you thinking any different than them. That hurts doesn't it? We often try so hard to blend in that we succeed in that. No one sees a difference in our life or in the way we react to life. They noticed a difference in Paul. He was speaking about things and reacting to things in a way that was different than everyone else.

So I've got to ask myself a question; What is my life saying?

Do I live and move and be like everyone else? Is that a good thing?

Do I simply blend in or am I living in a way that shows I'm a child of God?

the truth hurts

So Paul is in Athens, a place full of ideas and open to anything, or so it appears. A huge issue in our culture is acceptance and being tolerant. Everyone expects everyone to accept anything. Paul is in a place just like this, just like ours. We need to see this and understand this. If we see this connection it brings to light this passage and the application soon coming. Paul's situation then is no different than if he was walking the streets of Carrollton today.

The problem with fully accepting every idea presented is that it's impossible. It really goes back to yesterday doesn't it? You must determine where you stand with things ultimately with Jesus Christ. You either believe in and follow Him or you don't. There is no middle ground. You are either with Him or against Him. Jesus came to break away chains and to bring about a new way of life...a better way of life. He said this would cause issues. He said people would go against this. It was happening here in Athens and it's now happening here in Carrollton. We must be prepared to stand firm on what God has said. Do we want to respect people, accept people, show love to people? Yes! Yes! Yes! But do we want to trade our soul and lay down our beliefs of who Jesus is and what He has taught? No! No! No!

Do you see this struggle?

Have you experienced the struggle of standing firm?

Is this tough for you? Do you tend to sway back and forth for whatever reason?

There's wisdom and encouragement here for us. We must dig it out. There is no super encouraging bumper sticker verse. But in this exchange Paul has there is wisdom and encouragement.

Look what Paul does:

- **He stands in the midst of them.** (He doesn't disengage, he engages) v.22
- **He corrected perception with reality.** (He brought God into the equation)
- **He didn't shy away from sharing truth.** "Repent" is a no word these days. People want easy, Repenting is turning away from something. It takes work, effort and that scares people. It scares us too doesn't it? v. 30-31
- **There are people who will hear you and respond!** v.32-34. No matter how bad it seems remember that it's not dependent on you. God is the one working here. Our responsibility is to share truth. In the midst of what seems like failure, God is working!

So be encouraged here. Your school, town, family, culture may be going in an opposite direction but God is working. Stay faithful to share Him even when this seems to be going against the grain. You'll learn soon enough, and may already know this, but anything worth keeping is worth fighting for. So fight on!

The truth hurts and we live in a culture where the struggle to present it is real!

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!



go on speaking

Paul was a wanderer. He was on a mission that involved him visiting as many places as possible for the gospel and also to strengthen those who had earlier believed.

The interesting thing about Paul is his willingness to continue sharing Christ no matter how hard the circumstances. After leaving Athens Paul arrived in Corinth. Corinth was about 46 miles from Athens. While there Paul met Aquila and Priscilla. These two would spend a great deal with Paul and later become key individuals in the church.

Paul would end up staying here in Corinth a year and 6 months. That's a pretty long stay for such a wanderer. This would be the last town on his 2nd missionary journey.

I think it's very interested and needful for us to learn from Paul and his endless battles with those who wanted him to be quiet. It's very easy to make Paul the hero in all of these situations. It's very easy for us too to begin thinking we are all we need. But I could be the only one that struggles with this I guess!

The grace of God is sufficient for our every need! Never forget this truth. God is the hero of the story. I feel too many times we lean on our own understanding and power. I feel we often give too much credit to man rather than understand God is the one who is doing the work. Too often this is why we get man sized results rather than experiencing something only God could cause.

God comforts and encourages Paul in vv. 9-10.

1. Do not be afraid. - Go on speaking.
2. Do not be silent - I am with you.
3. No one will attack you to harm you. - I have many in this city who are my people.

God knows we experience trials and often want to give up or move on. He will make it abundantly clear when we're to move on and when we're to dig our heels in and remain. So Paul stayed and continued teaching the Word of God.

But get this...Paul receives this encouragement and what happens next? verse 12. God always gives us all we need for the moment of trial, loss, victory or famine. Right after God encourages Paul more trials come. We have it too easy don't we? What if our faith was really put the test like Paul? We come and go as we please. We play the "poor pitiful me" card when in actuality we have it made. We've built a nice and pretty life for ourselves. All our needs are met, we attend church once, twice, maybe even 3 times a week, say a prayer or two, read a verse or three, do a good deed and everything is cool. We view Paul's life and we say "I feel you brother" when we really have no idea what it means to truly take up our cross and follow Jesus. Don't get me wrong...I think we do understand but I think it's very easy to fall into a trap of laziness and dependence on self rather than Christ. Do we actually need God? Where? How?

I just wonder how I would respond to all these threats. Would I doubt? quit? run away? keep fighting? remain? What about you? Do we truly depend on God?

Last – don't excuse your trials as an attack from the enemy, that could be your sin. Let's use today wisely and go on speaking the truth of the gospel!



The third missionary journey begins...

After hanging around for a while Paul sets out on his last missionary journey. There would be a few new places visited and churches started but he would also visit some places he'd already been.

We get word that Paul is leaving town but then the story shifts to some old friends, Priscilla and Aquila. Paul met this couple in Corinth and they decided to go with Paul.

Priscilla and Aquila were nothing special, everyday people like you and me. It's amazing what God can do when people simply allow God to use all they have. Do you ever feel inadequate? Do you ever get down because maybe you don't have that special talent? Well these two folks were tentmakers. They had a normal job and normal life but they allowed all they were to be consumed with all that God was.

How many conversations have you had about Christ in your life? Outside of church, sermons or camp how many conversations have you had regarding the gospel, Christ, God? If we are really His people don't you think His name will be added to every conversation like salt and butter is always necessary for popcorn? Bad comparison maybe but I hope you get the picture. The point is this; though we may be normal people with not extraordinary talents we allow God to use all we are for His glory. When this happens we get God sized results. The alternative is that we continue down the path of the ordinary and live for ourselves. This kind of life will leave us wanting and will bring ordinary results.

We must understand the Christ was these people's life. There was no other thing. There was Christ and everything else and Christ always was the main priority.

So P & Q (Priscilla and Aquila) meet Apollos. He was preaching what he knew. But what he didn't know were some new things regarding Jesus. No one had told him.

So P & Q took him to the side and shared with him. The greek word "explained" really means that they expounded or elaborated. They went into great detail about Christ. Apollos was teaching boldly about Christ up until this point but can you imagine the boldness and strength he would now have?

Now where is Paul? Who knows really but the point is this...it's not just about one person doing all this. Apollos was teaching what he knew, without fanfare. Others were doing the same. The Church was growing because people were meeting Christ and allowing Him to become their life. They were growing, learning, sharing, going all in the name of Jesus, for Jesus. Thank God for normal people give their life to God.

The job of sharing the gospel and teaching of Christ is not the preachers alone. The job of sharing the gospel belongs to everyone who has ever called upon the name of the Lord. Don't be scared, don't put off this responsibility. Share Christ, with your life and mouth. Engage in conversation concerning Christ. This is our life.



Discipleship 101

When we are saved by the grace of God there is still much work to do. God has done, and will continue to do, all the work in and through us but there is still effort on our part. We must pick this baton up and run with it.

We could never know all there is to know of God and His ways the moment we are saved. We could never know all there is to know even if we read and study and discuss Scripture every day of our life. But we press on to know all we can. We press in to Him more and more each day. We reach right? We lean in on His understanding and we lean not on our own understanding. In all our ways we acknowledge Him and the Bible says He will direct our paths. (PROVERBS 3:5-6)

So although we can't know it all we act and move, seek and read, ask questions and discuss, and we seek to know Him more. Why? Because He is God and there is none higher than He. We desire to know Him greater.

Much like Apollos the people Paul meets in the text are believers that have simply not been taught. They knew Christ but their understanding and teaching stopped at the empty tomb. They had no idea what had gone on in Acts 1 or 2 or 3 and so on. They were following hard after all they knew, which was good but not the full story.

For 2 years Paul stayed here in Ephesus teaching so that all the residents heard the word of the Lord. (v.10) That's pretty incredible and an extremely simple approach to ministry and discipleship. Paul just met with them each day and taught from Scripture. Everyone there heard the "word of the Lord."

What about us? How much different are we than these people in Ephesus? I think we are a lot different in that we know of Acts 1, 2, 3, and so on. We know the story doesn't end after Jesus is risen. The church is birthed, the Holy Spirit comes, life goes on in a way it never has before. But are we pressing into this? Are we seeking God each day? Are we getting entangled into snares that are quiet frankly "stupid?"

Am I doing my part to learn and to share? Am I helping others see Jesus in the Scripture? Is someone teaching me? Am I making this a difficult process or am I humbly coming to the Scriptures to learn more about God, Jesus, myself, the world, sin, the cross and the gospel? What is my response to all these things?

Am I lazy? Am I full of energy but simply misguided? Am I like the people in verse 9? That's not good if we are. Could it be that I'm the reason the teaching of God is removed from the place I'm at? Am I so stubborn and so concerned about my name that I shut up the teaching of the Bible? If so I need to realize that this will not stop the teaching but that the teaching of God will simply move away from me. (v.9)

Nothing will stop God's people (the disciples) from learning more about Him. Where do you stand in this picture? Are you growing in 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!