



Summer Sunday School August 9, 2020

What if your friends said let's go on the roof of your house to pray, what would you do? Sounds weird but that was the culture norm for our friends in biblical times. Roofs are actually mentioned quite often in the bible, which seems silly right? Roofs are probably not even something you think about in your day to day lives. Maybe you have been on top of a roof before or you snuck onto one you shouldn't have. They can be scary and dangerous; however, they were the exact opposite for some people in the bible. The truth is for the people we read about in scripture, like Peter or Daniel, the roof for them was a sacred place. It was a place of prayer, rest, renewal, and worship. During the time of Jesus and his disciples, there was a sacred time each day for prayer (usually three times in one day). Everyone would stop what they are doing and take time to pray and worship God. People stopping their busy lives to make time for God & the coolest part is that often times it took place on the rooftops of their homes.

In scripture there are a few stories that stand out to me, all with different perspectives of the rooftop, but each being a sacred place for God.

1. Rehab, who was known as a prostitute in Jericho, but who hid two Israeli spies on her rooftop just before the walls came tumbling down. She was being friendly, and she was trying to save her family from destruction of the city. She uses her rooftop to save God's people and in return it changes her and God blesses her family. *Read more [here](#)>Joshua 2*

2. Daniel's rooftop was his retreat for prayer. It was here that he talked with and listened to God. Three times a day he went there, where he kept the window of his [rooftop chamber](#) opened toward Jerusalem, and called on the name of the Lord. A faithful follower of Christ using his roof for the glory of God. *Read more here> Daniel 6:10*
3. My favorite story- Jesus is teaching in a house that is maxed out with people. Four men carry their [lame friend](#) to be healed by Jesus. However, because of the crowd they can't get in through the door. So they climb up on the roof and tear open the tiles then to lower their friend to Jesus. For these friends the rooftop was a gateway, not a barrier. No expense was too great to keep them from getting their sick friend to Jesus. *Read more here> Luke 5: 17-26*

Rooftops are mentioned more than we realize in the bible, but each story has a different perspective of people trying their best to honor God.

Where's your rooftop? Where can you go and feel close to God, is it a room, a place, a group of friends that lead you to Christ? Do you help others get to that rooftop like the friends that carried their sick friend?

Challenge: The challenge for you this week is to go somewhere elevated and pray/worship God. Maybe your roof is safe, or your attic, a balcony, maybe you can drive and hike somewhere. Find a place that is high off the ground and pray like Daniel, Peter, and others did. The culture norms of our ancestors is something so unique, yet we can still connect with the scriptures & Jesus through trying out their different practices, so go try it out!!



One of the highest places I have been, on top of a Volcano in Nicaragua. We got to the top and took a moment of prayer, to take in the wonders of the world God has created. Have you been anywhere like this? This would be my "rooftop experience."