

MY NOTES

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us (we must be out of this one by December 2016).

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot, we may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15am service. Please understand that all of these “challenges” are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate, you can visit: www.elementroots.org.

- The Element Team

Week 3

ACTS

Guidance that
Leads Us

TODAY'S VERSES:

Acts 1:23-24
Acts 1:11
Genesis 3:15
Acts 1:12-26
Matthew 13:55
Mark 6:3
Mark 3:21
1 Corinthians 15:3-8
Matthew 5:17

UPCOMING @ ELEMENT

Gospel Class: Starts TODAY during 9:30a, go to Welcome Center for directions.

“Press On Workshop”

This Saturday, 9:30-2:30pm. All women are invited, \$15 fee for materials. ourelement.org/connect/ministries/women

Redemption Groups:

Start February 19th. Study the Exodus Story and how it points to Jesus and applies specifically to your life. Learn more at ourelement.org/redemption





The book of Acts details the beginnings of the early church, their stumbles, their questions, but most importantly, the leading of Jesus by His Spirit which was sent to guide. That same Spirit is the one that leads and guides us as well.

What was the hardest thing to wait for as a kid?

What is the hardest thing to wait for as an adult?

How does it feel to wait?

Right after Jesus' ascension, He told his disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit. Waiting is never easy; when the disciples waited, they did something wonderful, they prayed. In the scriptures it is hard to find waiting without the accompaniment of prayer.

What does prayer mean to you?

When do you pray?

Prayer is communication with God (and communication is important). We get to speak to God through prayer, although God speaks mainly to us through His scriptures. When we pray it is important to understand the necessity to slow down and listen to what God is saying through His word and His Spirit.

How do you listen to God?

Has God's Spirit ever led you? How?

We have a spirit and a soul and prayer is the language for both. The Scriptures teach us to pray continually, which means we should be praying about everything. We are meant to pray like we are in a relationship with someone, it is probably why Jesus made sure to give us a pattern for prayer (the Lord's Prayer).

The disciples prayed so they would all be in alignment with God and His will. We often find ourselves using prayer to try to manipulate or boss God around, instead, we need to use prayer to invite God to change us and unify us with His vision.

What do you look for in a leader?

Do you love Jesus above everything else?

What does that look like or not look like?

Read Acts 1:12-24

One of the most important ways to recognize the Holy Spirit's guidance is to be familiar with God's Word. The Bible is the ultimate source of wisdom about how we should live and believers are to search the Scriptures, meditate on them, and commit them to memory.

Knowledge of God's Word can help us to discern whether or not our desires come from the Holy Spirit. We must test our inclinations against Scripture—the Holy Spirit will never lead us to do anything contrary to God's Word; if it conflicts with the Bible, then it is not from the Holy Spirit and should be ignored.

Where (or who) in your life are you leading?

How do you recognize the Holy Spirit's guidance?

Like the early Church, we also need to be in continual prayer. Prayer changes our hearts and allows us to align our hearts with God's. Remember, the Spirit will never lead us into sin. Habitual sin will cause us to miss what the Holy Spirit wants to say to us through the the Scriptures. Being in tune with God's will, turning from and confessing sin, and making a habit of prayer and the study of God's Word, will hopefully allow us to recognize (and submit) to the guidance of the Spirit.

As a group, pray together so that we may be united.