

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 4

ACTS

A Heritage That
Informs Us

TODAY'S VERSES:

John 20:21-22
Acts 2:1-13
Exodus 12:2-3
Exodus 14:30
Exodus 15:2
Exodus 19:1-2
Exodus 19:16, 18
Matthew 26, 28
Acts 2:1

UPCOMING @ ELEMENT

Gospel Class: Not too late to join in, Sundays at 9:30a.

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

Pathway Family Services: Foster Care & Adoption, visit the Lounge or pfsffa.org for more.





Week 4:
A Heritage That
Informs Us
Acts 2:1-12

We are taking about two thirds of this year to cover the first half of the book of Acts. We are attempting to bring about a few things by covering this book in detail:

1. To see the beginnings of the church and Jesus' call to mission.
2. To help you, because many of you are people in transition, we understand that many of you will not spend the rest of your life in Santa Maria so we want you to have a good idea of what to look for in a church wherever you go.
3. Understanding that when we live on mission for Jesus we won't understand everything He is doing, but we can TRUST Him.

Do you have a plan for your future?

Where do you see yourself in 1, 5, and 10 years?

This week we will turn to what most biblical scholars call "the birth of the church."

Read Acts 2:1-12

What WORDS stand out to you in this passage?

What do you think about when you think about the Holy Spirit?

Do you think this is birth of the church? Why or why not?

We see in Exodus 12 that God calls His people into a new understanding of life, that the deliverance of them from bondage to Pharaoh and slavery was to be a new beginning; the first month of a new year. We then see that it wasn't just Israelites that came out of bondage, but an entire group of humanity from all walks of life. Eventually God frees them from Pharaoh's power at the Red Sea and takes His people to Sinai to give them a mission and an identity.

In the book of Acts the same events seem to happening again to the early church. They eat a Passover meal, the Passover lamb is slain (Jesus), three days later He rises from the dead, fifty days later Pentecost arrives and God speaks with thunder and fire. God is showing the early church that His call and mission is continuing to go out to all men and the church is the vehicle by which that mission happens.

What is the craziest thing you have ever seen God do?

What could God do that would freak you out, if it was done in the middle of an Element corporate gathering?

The early church was under extreme persecution; it had no buildings, no budget, and was difficult to join, but the church grew rapidly. The early church had a radical trust in God because they believed that God was continually working. They became a people who trusted Him to accomplish His plans, but they had to be woken up to the fact that the PLAN was to use them.

How has God used you?

What things are you afraid for God to use you in?

How do you want God to use you?

The early church was left with the same thing we are: the Spirit of God working through His people as they LIVE the gospel and spread the word to everyone by telling them "my life has been changed." That becomes more powerful than anything: MISSION and WITNESS.

Do you have a difficult time trusting God's plan?

What do you think the role of the church is in today's society?

Where in your life do you expect others to be the church and not us?

Pentecost is the story of God moving in humanity to accomplish His plan. Pentecost is the idea that God is still present, powerful, and near. Pentecost is a reminder that God can use any of us, simple or educated, strong or weak, rich or poor to bring about His plan.

Do you feel like God is still moving in your life?

Where do you feel God is calling you?

Are you ignoring or refusing the call?