

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 11

ACTS

Community That
Encourages Us

TODAY'S VERSES:

Acts 4:23-31

Proverbs 27:17

Romans 12:15

1 John 3:14

Proverbs 18:1

Romans 13:8

UPCOMING @ ELEMENT

Planting Roots Update

We passed the public hearing & have our Planned Development Permit! Now moving to the next set of permits.

Women's Breakfast

This Saturday, April 9,
9-11am in the lounge.
women@ourelement.org

Serve Santa Maria

Saturday, April 16th,
8:30am - help serve
our City together.
connect@ourelement.org





So far in Acts:

A Story That
Enlightens Us

A Resurrection And
Ascension That Is
Promised To US

Guidance That
Leads Us

A Heritage That
Informs to Us

Worship That
Reminds Us

Preaching That
Changes Us

Generosity That
Defines Us

Compassion That Is
Bigger Than Us

Truth That
Challenges Us

A Name That
Confronts Us

Week 11 – Acts 4:23-31: Community That Encourages Us

We are in our series on the book of Acts! This is week 11 and we are looking at the amazing nature of the community that Jesus calls us to be part of.

Who do you surround yourself with?

How do your friends currently effect your behavior?

How have your friends, in the past, effected your behavior?

Often times our personality does not arise in isolation, the majority of who we are happens because God uses people to form people. This idea in psychology is called “The Looking Glass Self,” the way other people view us and treat us is one of the largest indicators of who we become. Proverbs 27:17 says, *“Iron sharpens Iron, and one man sharpens another.”* This is why what happens between you and another person is never merely human to human interaction, it is spiritual. God’s Spirit longs to be powerfully at work in every encounter. If you have friends that love Jesus, that love for Him should be infectious and eventually you might begin to live that way too.

What/who is the most meaningful relationship in your life?

Read Acts 4:23-31

The church, when faced with persecution, did not give up, but boldly spoke the truth of the Gospel. Against all odds, the church grew. It is important to remember the church is not a building, it is a people, a community of people, who love Jesus and encourage one another. In Acts 4, there is a pattern that is clearly illustrated throughout scripture. According to Tim Keller the pattern is as follows: restoration, renewal, and revival.

When things get hard in your life, do you find yourself giving up or pressing on?

Do you want God to come down into the church in an intensely personal way?

Do you want Jesus to come into your life in an intensely personal way?

That is what a true community should pray for. This is a theology of renewal, visitation, and revival. Revival is a work of God in which the church is both beautified and empowered because the normal operations of the Holy Spirit: conviction of sin, enjoyment of grace, and access to the presence of God, are intensified.

How would you define revival?

According to Tim Keller there are three main characteristics of a revival.

- 1) There is an outpouring of the Spirit on believers. This means that the presence of God is among believers in such a way that we begin to actually find Christ more real to us than ever.
- 2) As a result of the outpouring of the Spirit, the people of the world are attracted to, and sought out by believers.
- 3) There is an impact on the community and society surrounding the church.

Have you ever experienced revival?

What is true community?

Encouraging community is not high fiving each other over a win, it is a constant encouragement of one another to proclaim the gospel of redemption and truth in all things. We must be a people who invite each other in to a revived community that encourages each other to live in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

How are Christians today part of the problem instead of the solution?

How have we made Christianity personal and not communal?

What would it look like for the church to truly be living on mission?

How can we encourage one another to live on that mission?