

# 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](http://www.elementroots.org).

- The Element Team

Week 16

# ACTS

A Lifestyle of  
Mission

## TODAY'S VERSES:

### **Acts 5:29-42**

Acts 5:39

Matthew 23:25-26

Deut. 11:18-19

Matthew 7:12

Jeremiah 29:4-9

Acts 17:26-27

2 Corinthians 5:21

Micah 6:8

## UPCOMING @ ELEMENT

### **Connect Party**

TODAY AT 2pm! See  
Welcome Center for  
directions.

### **Gospel Class:**

Starts June 5th at 9:30a  
in upstairs classroom.  
An 8 week class that  
goes through basic  
Doctrine in Christianity &  
what Element believes  
specifically.

### **Women's Bunco**

This Friday, 7-9pm in  
the lounge. Childcare  
available with signups





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 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

Community That  
Encourages Us

Membership That  
Accounts For Us

Accountability That  
Exposes Us

A Hope That Heals Us

A Joy In Our Identity

## Week 16 – Acts 5:29-42 A Lifestyle of Mission

Today is week 16 of the book of Acts; we are taking a little extra time to explain the idea of “a lifestyle of mission.” We are going through the book of Acts because we want you to know what to look for in a church if you ever leave Santa Maria (or Element). Act’s is both prescriptive and descriptive; it is a book describing what happened and, in certain cases, a book telling us what to do. This week, we learn that mission is for everyone, even you!

**Where in life do you struggle to take a stand, (pick sides)?**

**Read Acts 5:39-42.**

**What has happened in the past (good & bad) when you *did* take a stand for something?**

We see in this passage from Acts a Pharisee named Gamaliel. Gamaliel was the grandson of one of the greatest Rabbi’s in Jewish culture; Hillel. He does not really know what to do with the Apostle’s message of preaching in Jesus’ name because he says *“for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail, if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them.”* Gamaliel did not take a stand, he simply said the words he did in order to not rock the boat and to see how events would play out.

**Why is it easier to keep that status quo rather than rock the boat?**

Gamaliel’s speech gives us a false dichotomy: withdraw from the world in way that misunderstands how God intends to use us (sort of like monks), or try to take over and impose our will through laws meant to curb behavior, but does nothing about people’s hearts.

**Do you tend more toward legalism, fatalism, or somewhere in the middle? *Legalism is following laws to force everything to work out a certain way; fatalism sees no hope in doing anything, so it most often gives up.***

God throughout the scriptures has called His people not to fatalism or legalism, but to a third way, the way of mission. We do not withdraw, we do not always fight (sometimes you have to depending upon the situation), but we do what we can to show forth the will of God in ways that are available to us by building relationship and hope. We do SOME THINGS, the things God calls us to do, in a spirit of glorifying God and showing His grace.

In Jeremiah 29 God’s people are in a pagan city, they have been captured and taken into exile. The Israelites are wondering how they are supposed to live because they are very confused, they have no temple, their rulers were awful, and their prophets were false. So God sends His true prophet with some instructions that are good for us as well.

**If God spoke to you right now, what do you think He would call you to do?**

God tells his people that they are where they are because He sent them there. He tells them to invest, love, and pour energy and life into their city. He tells them to marry, have children, and live as an example of what family is meant to look like in their city. God says to serve the city. This is a lifestyle of mission.

As soon as you take the name of Christ, Christ calls you to go and make disciples. We get to partner in God’s mission!

**What do you think of when you think of mission?**

**Do you know any missionaries?**

That last question was a trick question; we are all missionaries! Yes, even you! **If you are Christian, YOU are a missionary.** The great myth is that “missions” is what we do around the world, where we send people to faraway places to tell people about Jesus. While that is true, a missionary is also you – sent to Santa Maria, Ca.

**How can you invest in your city?**

We don’t sit back and keep the status quo like Gamaliel, we are sent to lift up the name of Jesus by doing justice, living in kindness, and walking humbly with God. We are meant to seek the peace and welfare of our cities in which God has placed us. We obey what God has revealed to us, just like the apostles, and continue preaching the good news of the NAME of Jesus by our actions and words.