

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.

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 24

ACTS

A Baptism That
Unifies Us

TODAY'S VERSES:

Acts 8:26-40

John 17:20-23

Romans 6:3-6

Acts 2:38

Acts 18:18

Ephesians 2:8-9

Romans 10:9-10

Matthew 25:31-46

UPCOMING @ ELEMENT

Baptisms Information

Meeting Following this service, upstairs in classroom (see Welcome Center for directions)

Men's Breakfast This Saturday at 8:15a here at Element.

Youth Camp this Week

Keep our High Schoolers and Jr. Highers in your prayers this week as they are at camp.





Week 24 – Acts 8:26-40

A Baptism That Unifies Us

In Acts we have been looking at how the early Christian Church got its start with the goal that we as individuals, and the church as a whole, would understand what it takes to make a “good” church. We want to be a church that focuses on Jesus so that our lives also focus on Jesus; we want to live as God’s hands, feet, and voice to the world. We want to serve those around us in the church and those outside of the church.

Has anyone ever served you in a way that knew they were doing it for Jesus? How?

We want the series in Acts to also help show us what to look for in a church home should any of us ever need to leave the Santa Maria Valley. It is important for believers to learn to live their faith in the midst of a community of fellow believers and we hope by the end of this series you will see some of the important things a church should believe and live out. These aren’t things that every church will do perfectly, but they are things we strive for...one of those things is being a church who celebrates baptism as a gigantic party where the entire church can rejoice.

What is your understanding of Baptism?

Do you think there is saving power in Baptism? Why or Why not?

The Holy Spirit is now actively moving to take His witnesses out into the world to make an impact on the cultures around them. Philip is lead to an Ethiopian eunuch who is studying the scriptures, but doesn’t understand the things he is reading.

Have you ever read the Bible and walked away confused?

Would you care to share an example?

Who helped you to understand what you were reading?

Philip is aware of those around him enough that he notices this Ethiopian and asks him a question about what he is reading.

Read Acts 8:26-40.

Philip sees the eunuch reading scripture and with great boldness bluntly asks, “Do you understand what you are reading?” For most of us, starting a conversation like that would be awkward, but it actually helps Philip to discern this man’s spiritual condition.

What are some questions you can ask to discern a person’s spiritual condition?

What fears do you have about sharing the gospel?

In what circumstance do you find it easy to share the gospel?

What circumstances make it difficult?

In this story we find two very different cultures merging together – the Early Church (which was a very Jewish culture) and the Ethiopian Eunuch (a very eastern type culture). Philip did not get bogged down in the “shoulds” and “should nots” while he was sharing the gospel with this man, he went directly to the heart of the matter and talked about Jesus. When we talk about Jesus, boundaries that seem impossible should get smaller. We are called to find unity in Christ.

Do you have a witnessing story you can share (whether good or bad)?

How can we be better prepared to speak/teach the gospel to others?

As a Christian, as adopted children of God, and as an entire church body... we are to share the Gospel with everyone around us in tangible ways. We are to live lives that speak of the goodness of Jesus as well as tell all people about the good news that Jesus has saved everyone who simply believes in Him. We get to go out into the world sharing the Gospel and baptizing people who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus.

Who are you called to sit with, listen to and tell Jesus about?

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

Community That Encourages Us

Membership That Accounts For Us

Accountability That Exposes Us

A Hope That Heals Us

A Joy In Our Identity

A Lifestyle of Mission

Leadership That Grows Through Mistakes

A Peace That Speaks For Us

A Theology That Informs Us

A Calling That Kills Us

Words That Scatter Us

A Spirit That Humbles Us