

# 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 8:15 am 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 27

# ACTS

A Grace That  
Welcomes Us

## TODAY'S VERSES:

### Acts 9:26-31

Acts 1:8

Romans 5:8

Matthew 4:18-20

Matthew 5:21, 27, 33, 38

John 8:54-59

Luke 24:11

Acts 22:3

Acts 2:8-11

John 9:1-2

Acts 8:27

Deuteronomy 23:1

Galatians 3:23-24

Acts 8:36

Isaiah 56:3-5

## UPCOMING @ ELEMENT

### Women's Create & Paint

August 20th, 6-8:30p

Childcare available. RSVP  
[women@ourelement.org](mailto:women@ourelement.org)

### eMoms! Lompoc Aquatic

Trip September 25th,  
3:15p. Sign up today!

### Redemption Groups

Start September 9th.

Applications available  
at the Welcome Center  
or online at:  
[ourelement.org/  
redemption](http://ourelement.org/redemption)





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  
 A Baptism That Unifies Us  
 A Discipline That Restores Us  
 Passion That Speaks Through Us

## Week 27 – Acts 9:26-31 Grace That Welcomes Us

We are currently doing a series through the first half of the book of Acts, up until the focus shifts from Peter to Paul. Today, we are talking about a Grace that Welcomes Us and essentially giving a recap of everything that has happened in the book of Acts up to this point. Acts 9 is about helping the church (and us) understand the far reaching welcoming hands of God.

**Do you seek out new people you do not recognize in a Sunday morning service to say “Hi” so they feel welcomed in?**

**Why or why not?**

**Do you actively look around in other areas of your life for those who could use friendship?**

We ask this a lot at Element because we want you to be able to not just repeat the words, but understand the meaning.

**What is the Gospel?**

The Gospel (which translates as Good News) is the Good News of God’s rescue and redemption of us in the person of Jesus Christ, that He can make all things NEW even us.

**So far we have spent 27 weeks in Acts, what do you think has happened thus far?**

**What is your summation?**

In Acts, we see God calling us to ALL people; people that we like, and people that we wish simply just did not exist in our sphere of life. We have been called to remember that we have been called to those we like and don’t like. On Sunday,

Aaron mentioned 8 groups/people that seem outside of God’s hope, but yet those are the people we are called to go to!

The welcoming arms of God starts with the disciples, then moves to women, the crowds in Jerusalem, the broken and needy, those who are too into the culture around them, those who have compromised their ethics, those who are confused, and finally to those who have been violent of their opposition to the Gospel (like Paul).

**Read Romans 5:8.**

**Where do you fall short?**

**Would where you fall short fit into one of the categories above, or would you have your own?**

The Gospel is largely a story of God reaching out and redeeming LOST PEOPLE. This is the story of a God who is teaching His people that the entire earth is His...and all people are included in His story. WE, all of us, are unqualified, full of sin, pride, and self-centeredness...but are welcomed home where Jesus will change us into the people He intends for us to be.

**How do you define grace?**

**Is grace an easy idea or a difficult idea for you? Why?**

**How have you experienced grace?**

If God has welcomed us, how can we not welcome others like we have been welcomed? God reaches beyond all of our boundaries and reaches us right where we are and works on us from there.

**What do we demand of others that God doesn’t demand?**

**Who do you have the hardest time with?**

One commentator says it like this, *“God extends grace and love to all those who are thirsty, not those who are worthy.”*

**How do you respond to the Grace God gives you?**

**How does Grace change your heart towards yourself?**

**How does Grace change your heart towards others?**