



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Christmas For Kids!

Help us bless Delta High School!

This year, in lieu of Christmas for Kids program, where we take kids shopping, we want to bless our new neighbors: Delta High School, by providing a Christmas gift on their last day of school. This gift will include a movie ticket pass, some candy, and an Element bookmark. Monetary Donations are needed; please see the Welcome Center or give online at: www.ourelement.org/cfk

Women's Ornament Exchange

December 20th, 6:30pm

Childcare is available but must sign up
women@ourelement.org

Youth Christmas Parties

Middle School: December 12

High School: December 14

Students should wear their ugliest Christmas sweater for our Ugly Sweater Contest as well as bring a wrapped white elephant gift to participate in our gift exchange. Gifts shouldn't be more than \$5.

Jingle all the Way

Week 3 - Hazardous Families

Today's Verses:

Matthew 2:13
Matthew 2:1-2
Matthew 2:16
Ezekiel 3:1

Revelation 10:1
Isaiah 20
2 Corinthians
11:25-29

Matthew 16:25
2 Corinthians
5:18-20

Week 3 - Hazardous Families

'Tis the season...for all things merry and bright and family and drama...or is it? This Christmas here at Element, we are focusing on what God says about family. We all have hard people in our families. How do we deal with them? Most importantly, how do we see ourselves in God's family? As always, the Bible has a lot to say about this topic and the answers we find in God's Word will help us navigate the hazards of broken people (that's all of us) in a broken world (that's everywhere on this side of Heaven).

What is the most hazardous situation you have ever been in?

Have you ever had family members who are hazardous to your wellbeing?

Before you start thinking, "Hey, it's Christmas time! Let's talk about all things merry and bright!" keep in mind that with the reality of Jesus' birth, God provided a way to restore not just our eternal hope for salvation, but our view of family. Restored relationship with God is the ultimate gift...we can't get more of a merry Christmas than that!

How do you deal with your scary/oddball family members?

What choices do you make to protect yourself from tough situations?

Maybe you're thinking "my family is fine" and wonder what we mean when we say "hazardous?" Some synonyms for hazardous are:

- **Risky** - Do you have anyone in your life that is risky? Perhaps they are a danger to you OR when you hang out with them you find yourself participating in some things you know you shouldn't be doing?
- **Dangerous** - Do you have anyone in your family that you are not sure about, or that you feel unsure around?

- **Unsafe** - Are there those in your family that come around at Christmas and say things that tear you down or belittle you? Do you or others use words to destroy who God says you are and is calling you to be?
- **Lethal** - Do you have anyone who kills your spirit and soul when you are around them?
- **Insecure** - Is there anyone in your life that is so insecure that it sucks the life out of you?

Do any of these hit close to home for someone in your family? If so, reach out to someone in your Gospel Community or a trusted friend that would be willing to walk alongside you. You are not alone; others have (or are) walking the same path that you are. In the Christmas story there was more than one hazardous person, yet God had a plan for all of it. He has a plan for your circumstances, too.

Read 2 Corinthians 11:24-30

In what areas do you live a "safe" life?

Have you ever entered into someone else's hardship?

What happened?

One of the most profound statements in the Bible is when Jesus said "whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." The illusion of safety can protect us from people and from God, but the Gospel tears down that illusion and seeks to reconcile us to each other because of our redemption and reconciliation with Jesus.

How can you live like Jesus in laying down your life to serve and restore those around you?

Instead of asking "If you died tonight, where would you go?" What about Jesus' question: "What if you don't die tonight...how will you live tomorrow?"