

UPCOMING EVENTS:

PUMPKIN KILLING!

www.ourelement.org/pk

TODAY! From 1:30-4pm at the Orcutt Hill (Newlove) Picnic Grounds! Fun for all ages!

EMOMS HOLIDAY BAZAAR

emoms@ourelement.org

November 14th from 9am-3pm

AGAPE THANKSGIVING MEAL

connect@ourelement.org

Sunday, November 22nd

GOSPEL COMMUNITY

GC's are our primary organizing structure, here at Element. It's where we really see Disciple Making take place, when we orient our lives together, on and around the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It's where we commit to grow as a disciple, disciple others, and make disciples. To share our lives so they are visible and accessible.

DISCIPLE: A disciple is one who increasingly submits their life to the all-empowering Lordship of Jesus Christ.

JOIN: Connect with a Group by emailing connect@ourelement.org or visiting the Welcome Center.

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

LEGENDS OF THE FALL

TODAY'S VERSES:

2 Samuel 14:23-24

2 Samuel 13:5

2 Samuel 13:15-20

Deuteronomy 17:17

2 Samuel 13:28

2 Samuel 14:6, 25

2 Samuel 15:2-4, 10

2 Samuel 15:25-26

2 Samuel 16:21

2 Samuel 17:1-3, 14, 23

2 Samuel 18:10-15

Proverbs 27:6

MY NOTES:

06

ABSALOM

During the summer we did a series titled Coloring Book All-Stars (about the heroes you would find in children's bible coloring books). We are now in a series titled Legends of the Fall (about all the bad guys in the bible). We travel through these two series in an effort to be able to see how the people in the bible are just like us, lost and in need of God's redemption.

What is the best and worst advice you have ever received?

The central premise that we will continue to come to in the story of Absalom, is that we all need trusted friends in our lives who will speak the truth of the Gospel ("you are in sin, God is calling you, surrender").

Who in your life do you allow to speak truth?

Do you desire to be flattered or hear the truth?

Ask people around you what they think you want to hear.

Sin is insidious, it gets deep inside of us and convinces us that our motives are pure and right, while making us think everyone else is wrong. The story of Absalom is a spiral that starts with David and Bathsheba (2 Sam 11-12) > then moves to Amnon (2 Sam 13) > and ends up with David's son Absalom.

Just like every character in Legends of the Fall, our misplaced affections make us want to put ourselves in the place of God. In the book of Genesis we come to realize that "sin" is many things....

- Sin is the disruption of shalom. The peace and the rightness of what God created.
- Sin is rebellion. We rebel against God's order of things.
- Sin is participation in the way of death, when we steer things in the opposite direction of God.
- Sin is missing the mark.

How would you personally define sin?

In what ways have you seen sin spiral out of control (in your life and others lives)?

Augustine said that all sin stems from pride. In the story of David and Bathsheba, David is only able to repent of his adultery with Bathsheba, and the murder of her husband, by a trusted friend stepping into his life and speaking the Gospel truth to him (you are in sin, God is calling you, surrender).

When Absalom spirals into sin he has no one in his life who will speak the truth in an unmitigated way to him. He has people who can easily manipulate him by appealing to his fear as well as his vanity. Absalom progresses into the places he does because no one trained him in understanding the grace found in true wisdom.

Read Proverbs 27:6

If someone were to manipulate you, would they be better off using praise or fear? Why?

How are a friend's wounds to be trusted?

Do you understand the great privilege God gives us by being in relationship with each other? Relationship is not so we judge one another based upon our sins; it is having the guts to speak the truth into each other's lives because we all need it.

When was the last time someone spoke hard truth to you?

How did you react?

Has anyone ever said you are selfish, sinful, and worship yourself? When someone gets in our face our first reaction should be "is there any truth in this." We are a people who are horribly self-centered which leads to us being incredibly lost.

We have all gone our own way and yet, just like David pardoned his enemies, God sends Jesus to pay the penalty for our sin and pardon us. We have relationship with God because of Jesus. God is redeeming, God is loving, and God is calling us home.

Is there a truth that God is speaking into your life right now that you are failing to listen to?

How can you become better at speaking the Gospel into others lives?

God has revealed to us our nature, but He has also redeemed us, and provided a way for salvation. As we live out the truth of the gospel, we live it out in each other's lives.