

UPCOMING EVENTS

GREETERS NEEDED

Email: connect@ourelement.org

Email us if you are willing to help greet once a month or twice a month at the service you normally attend!

PLANTING ROOTS!

www.ElementRoots.org

Planting Roots is our three-year journey of faith. It started in the fall of 2014 as we collectively sought God's guidance and calling in each of our lives who call Element "Home." We made commitments early in October 2014 of sacrifice and financial support, above and beyond our regular giving, to help Element "plant roots" in our community by building a permanent facility.

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:

Genesis 11:4

Genesis 10:32

Genesis 8:21

Romans 10:17

Romans 10:14

Genesis 11:1-9

Genesis 1:28

Genesis 9:1, 7

Job 42:2

Revelation 7:9-10

Revelation 21:23-26

MY NOTES:

03

BABEL

Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth."

Genesis 11:4

Welcome to our 3rd week of Legends of the Fall. Legends of the Fall is like the opposite of our previous summer series where we looked at the "good guys" in the Bible, now we are looking at the "bad" people, or the "bad" stories of the Bible. Many of the things that we look at throughout this series are things we tell ourselves we would never do, and yet we typically fall right into it. Hopefully, by the time we are done with all of these stories the "good guys" from the last series won't look so good (other than Jesus), and the bad guys won't look so bad, and we will realize we are just as lost and broken as them.

Today, we look at the Tower of Babel.

Read Genesis 11:4

What is something you are proud of and others should praise you for?

What happens when no one notices how proud you are of your own accomplishments?

The people of Babel were proud of their tower, but the language in the Bible shows that God was not impressed with their works. *Genesis 11:5 But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building.* Sometimes we are so impressed with our own works that we think God has to also be impressed, but no matter how good we think we are, we cannot earn God's favor.

How have you tried to earn God's favor?

What do you do when you feel exposed, lost, and unsafe?

The people of Babel built a tower to try and handle their fears by trying to gain three things:

- strength,
- security,
- significance.

The problem with the people of Babel is that they looked to what they could do instead of what God wanted for them. The tower of Babel is a lot more than humans doing something wrong and God teaching them a lesson. The story is, once again, the problem of Genesis 3. There is an assumption that mankind thinks they know what they need better than what God knows they need.

What do you think you need?

Is there anything you think you need that God has stopped you from attaining?

What makes you feel significant?

When we do not trust God, we find ways to provide strength, security, and significance for ourselves. We do this in our own effort with our own resources (just like the tower of babel). Today, we build towers out of our careers, our families, our stuff, or our intellect. When we try to find our hope in our own resources we will ultimately find it all empty.

How do you act to people who are not like you?

Who can you try and love despite them being different than you?

Community is funny. We are called together (remember that book?), but we are also called to disperse and connect with people not like us. Humans like people who are like us (same social class, same ethnic background, same beliefs) and fear people who are different from us.

We must remember that God says when we follow Him we can stop living in fear and truly become unified in Jesus. The barriers that separate us should be discarded in the church, not because of our similarities, but because we love and serve the same God, Jesus.

Read Revelation Rev 7:9-10

How does God's rescue of the people at Babel point to how Jesus came and rescued us?