

UPCOMING EVENTS:

eKIDS! SCHOOL WARS

THIS Wednesday, 9/30 at 6:30pm.

Gather up all your elementary school friends and represent your school at our school wars! Join us as schools are pit against each other in games, like life-sized Hungry Hungry Hippos! Pencil invites in the Elementary room!

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.

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

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 increasing 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.

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:

1 John 3:12

Genesis 4:1-17

Psalms 58:3

Romans 3:23

1 John 3:12

Hebrews 11:4

Ephesians 2:10

Genesis 2:18

Genesis 50:20

MY NOTES:

02

CAIN

We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.

1 John 3:12

Welcome to Element's sermon series; the LEGENDS of the FALL! This series takes a look at some of the notorious bad people, or stories, in the Bible. This week, we look at the first murder in the world and find out how Cain is exactly like us. Thankfully, identifying with one of the "bad" characters in the Bible points us in the direction of Jesus, our Redeemer!

If you had a sibling while growing up, did you fight? About what?

Read Genesis 4:3-5. What do you offer to God?

We have a tendency to demonize Cain, but in reality, Cain brought an offering to God. Sometimes, that is more than we do. Christians claim to offer their entire lives to God, but in my opinion (Jon), we don't truly do that; we only give God part of our lives. Many times, if we do give to God, it is out of a feeling of obligation and not out of a genuine response to God's goodness.

If you give, why do you offer God anything?

Giving should be a response to the understanding of God's goodness. I understand that a lot of the time giving to God seems to be a burden. However, once we understand God's goodness, this unnatural act becomes more and more natural. Giving is a response to God upon recognizing that He gave us the ultimate gift; a grace filled opportunity to be restored as children of God. Jesus' work on the cross was the final gift we will ever need; it is a promise of restoration.

Why do you think God did not accept Cain's offering?

1 John 3:12 and Hebrews 11:4 indicate that Cain came with no faith. He gave to God out of a sense of obligation instead of a heart of faith; Cain gave to God because he believed he was supposed to. Cain came to give, but his heart was not open. In Jewish thought, an act of worship **MUST** be informed by a genuine devotion of the heart. Since Cain did not have a genuine response of worship, God did not accept Cain's offering.

What is the difference between a heart of faith and a heart of obligation? Which do you have?

Who do you compare yourself too?

What does that do for/to you?

Cain compared himself to his brother; he wanted what his brother had. Cain used comparison to make himself feel insecure, worthless, and hostile. When you compare yourself to others you miss out on the two most important things in life—Jesus, and becoming who He wants you to become. When we compare ourselves to others it will kill our growth and true worship of God.

What do we learn of the character of God in His dealings with Cain?

Read Genesis 4:5-7

It is of critical importance that we realize that God is **SEEKING OUT** His children. These verses do not advocate salvation through works, but instead is a way of saying you have to decide to do what is right even when you don't want to.

When we sin, we see patterns of trying to hide: Adam and Eve hid with clothing themselves, Cain killed his brother and arrogantly shouted, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Sin has a tendency to make us mad at God and we think He did not truly save us or deliver us from a "bad situation." The truth of the matter is not that God is silent, but the fact that we have a listening problem.

God's Grace:

We see that God extends grace to Cain. *Genesis 4:15-17* "Then the Lord said to him, "Not So! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the Lord put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden. Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. When he built a city, he called the name of the city after the name of his son Enoch."

God allows Cain to do this because God is good. He does not need to wait for us to show repentance, He shows us grace while we are at our worst.

What is the Gospel?

What is Grace?

Cain's story is a story about redemption. Cain shows us a beautiful example of the Gospel. When we sin, we destroy our community and ourselves, but God does not leave us in that state. He sent His son to come, live, die, and rise from the dead to take away our sin and bring us to life and relationship again.