

JOIN US FOR...

FEBRUARY
6th
6:00pm

CONNECT PARTY

A fun evening filled with desserts, laughter and a chance to meet and get to know others at Element. A great way to get connected & find out what's next!

JANUARY
25th
6pm

CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

Come to find out about Element's budget, Planting Roots, and what we are planning for twenty fifteen.

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END OF YEAR DONATIONS

Must be received by 12/31/14 to be credited to this year's taxes.
You will receive a giving statement in January if you gave in a trackable way.

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CONNECT ON OUR WIFI

Network: Element Guest
Password: welcometoelement

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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 too 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

1/5

Luke 15:1-10

PRODIGAL GOD

the lost sheep & coin

TODAY'S VERSES:

- Genesis 1:1
- Genesis 3:15
- Matthew 1:23
- Isaiah 7:14
- John 1:1-3
- John 1:14
- John 8:48-58
- Luke 24:27
- Luke 24:44
- Romans 1:1-4
- Luke 19:10
- Luke 15:1-10
- Luke 7:34
- Ezekiel 34:1-16
- John 10
- Ephesians 2:1-5
- Genesis 12:1-3
- Revelation 21:3-4
- Revelation 22:20

MY NOTES:

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In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. - GENESIS 1:1

PRODIGAL GOD

the lost sheep & coin

When I broke my leg years ago I had to rely on other people to help me; I learned very quickly how much we take things for granted until we are put in a position of helplessness. I forgot how important my legs were for walking. This is the way it often is with our faith; we forget where we came from and live our lives day by day passing time. The apostle Peter (2 Peter 1:5-9) talks about Christian character traits a believer should be increasing in, and if they are not increasing in those traits, then they are forgetting where they came from. Jesus Christ has sought us out when we were lost, found us, restored us, and rejoiced!! Jesus picked us up out of the dirt when we were lost and helpless and made us alive; we need to be constantly reminded of that fact. We should never think of ourselves as graduates of grace!! We can never exhaust the depths of His amazing grace; as we are told to approach His throne of grace with confidence to give us mercy in our time of need (Heb. 4:16). It is so easy for us, in our busy lives, to have "Christian Amnesia". We have to remind ourselves constantly of God's love for us and the sacrifice Jesus Christ made on the cross on our behalf. Communion was established so we would remember Jesus' body broken and his blood spilt for us. We forget things quickly unless we are reminded. Let us ask God to give us strength to remember where we came from, what God is doing through us, and what the future holds for us who hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For the story of Jesus Christ rescuing us when we were helpless and broken is a much bigger story than relying on other people when our (metaphorical) legs are broken.

DISCUSSION questions

In the parable of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin (Luke 15:1-10), we see God's plan of salvation, as well as His involvement in seeking

out, finding, restoring, and rejoicing in His lost people. Rather than hiring somebody to go out and search for us, God sought us out Himself, because He is personally interested in each one of us. God took it upon Himself to rescue us despite (in spite of our sin) and carry us on his shoulders as a shepherd would with a lamb--taking our sins to the cross. What we could never do for ourselves, He did, and that is amazing grace.

DISCUSSION

Have you ever lost something very valuable?

Did you do all that you could do to find it?

If it was found, did you share your excitement with your friends?

APPLICATION

How do you respond to people who are difficult to be around? Do you show them grace or is it hard to remember the grace that has been shown toward you?

MISSION

What are practical ways to demonstrate grace to the people God has placed in your life?

If someone were to ask, how would you describe how God sought and rescued you?

HOMEWORK

When you are going about your week, try to think through how you are responding to people.

Do you hope that people will leave you alone or do you respond with love? Do you automatically put up your guard because you see other people as a problem, or do you see other people as image bearers of the living God in need of grace just as much as we are?