

JOIN US FOR...

JANUARY
25

SUPER SNACK SUNDAY

Help us fill our eKids! snack cupboards! We ask everyone to bring with them on the 25th Non-Perishable snacks that can be resealed or individually wrapped. Get a complete list at the Welcome Center.

JANUARY
25th
6pm

CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

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

FEBRUARY
6th
7pm

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!

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GOSPEL CLASS

8 week class that goes through basic Doctrine in Christianity & what Element believes specifically. Starts February 1st at 9:30a service

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

3/5

Luke 15:11-32

PRODIGAL GOD

the older brother

TODAY'S VERSES:

- 1 John 1:8
- Luke 15:1-2
- Luke 15:4-6
- Luke 15:8-10
- Luke 15:11-32
- Proverbs 18:8

MY NOTES:

Blank area for notes.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.

- 1 JOHN 1:8

PRODIGAL GOD

the older brother

Element is doing a whole year of topical sermons (which really turn out to be expository). Currently we are in the third week of Jesus' teachings found in Luke 15. This week's sermon was the second on the parable of the Prodigal Son and we focused on the older brother.

Who do you find yourself identifying with in the parable of the Prodigal Son? Did it change from last week?

Let's start this discussion off by reading Luke 15:25-32 *"Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"*

How do you feel when you are around an arrogant person for a long period of time?

Are there people in your life that you feel superior to? Why do you feel superior?

The older brother in the prodigal son parable told himself that he was superior to his younger brother who had squandered his inheritance. The older brother was, most likely also convinced that he was superior to his father who welcomed home a reckless youth. When we are able to convince ourselves that we are better than someone else, it becomes impossible to love him or her. We eventually will start to look down on them and be filled with bitterness and hostility. We will move to the place where we find ourselves resenting them, and maybe even enjoying our resentment.

In the sermon, Aaron mentioned that there are three traits of an older brother; resentment, frequent complaining, and being judgmental.

Is there anyone in your life that you resent? On some level, do you enjoy your resentment? What do you find yourself complaining about? What type of person do you think of when you think of a "religious" person?

Tim Keller writes, "It is natural for younger brothers to think older brotherhood and Christianity are the same thing;" this is why it is imperative that we accurately define the terms that we use. Being like an older brother, described in the parable of the Prodigal Son, is not what following Jesus actually looks like. The older brothers have no grace and are filled with judgmentalism. When we are truly following Jesus, we will view all people as our equals because we are all poor in spirit (you thought sermon on the mount was over, suckers), we will be filled with grace, and offer love to those who we see as unlovable.

How do real obedience to Christ and conformity differ from one another?

In the end, Jesus doesn't give a resolution to the story; it is as if He is asking how we hope the story ends. Do you want the older brother to go into the field and work hard his entire life and die alone, or do you want him to have humility, walk into the house, and celebrate in joy with everyone else?

How do you hope the story ends? Why?