

JOIN US FOR...



CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

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



Women's Hike

The Women's Ministry is hosting a walk for women who want to socialize and exercise. Meet in the eastern parking lot at Orcutt Community Park Bring your friends!



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!

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

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Luke 15:1-2, 11-32

PRODIGAL GOD

who are you like?

TODAY'S VERSES:

MY NOTES:

- Isaiah 53:6
- Luke 15:10
- Luke 15: 11-32
- Revelation 4:2
- Isaiah 6:3
- Matthew 27:46
- John 14:23
- Isaiah 25:6-8

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned
- every one - to his own way; and the Lord has laid on
him the iniquity of us all - Isaiah 53:6

PRODIGAL GOD

who are you

Today we are wrapping up our first sermon series of the year, The Prodigal God. This series has examined the Parable of the Prodigal Son, found in Luke 15, as well as the parable of the lost coin and the lost sheep (also found in Luke 15). We have looked at the parable of the prodigal son from three different perspectives; the father, the older brother, and the younger brother.

Has your understanding of the parable changed in any way since the sermon series began?

Who do you relate to in the story?

Throughout this series we learned that the Parable of the Prodigal Son is not about the younger son who leaves, or the older brother who stays, but is ultimately a story about the father's love for his children. We learned about the kezazah ceremony where a village would gather together, find a clay pot, and break it in front of the child on his return as way to say, "This is the brokenness that you have caused in our community."

Have you experienced kezazah (being cut off) from what you considered "home"?

In the parable the father is able to forgive sins that transpired against him and provided an extravagant amount of grace to his two children. The parable is a story about the salvation we are offered.

What do you think of when you hear the term 'salvation'?

Has anyone shown you love that you have not deserved?

How has this changed your perspective of that person?

We learned in the sermon that salvation has four components;

- it is experiential, it is meant to be tasted, touched, embraced and lived.
- it is material, it involves the physical world and the spiritual world.
- it is individual, God saved us individually.
- it is communal, like a party or feast, it is meant to be shared with others.

In the parable, Jesus uses a feast to capture these four elements.

We asked this question last week, but, what is the Gospel?

How would you explain it to someone?

Does the story of the prodigal son help you to speak the truth of the Gospel in an intelligible way?

The Father loves us, no matter what we have done, or where we are. He desperately wants us to come home and experience the infinite joy that He is offering us. The Father is actively seeking us and wants to run forward to embrace us, with His embrace He restores us as heirs to His kingdom.

How can we bring the grace the Father gives us to other people?

It is important to understand that we do not make the celebration happen, as it isn't our story, it is God's story. The celebration is happening whether we enter into it or not, it is like Keller says in the Prodigal God, "What makes you faithful or generous is not a redoubled effort to follow moral rules. Rather all change comes from deepening your understanding of the salvation of Christ and living out the changes that understanding creates in your heart."

How has Jesus changed the way you live?

How has following Jesus brought more joy and celebration into your life and the lives of others you are connected to?

Isaiah 25:6-8:

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

And he will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.

He will swallow up death forever;

and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.