

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 good problem as we look for a future permanent home that Element can move into that will be larger and have some proper Air Conditioning. 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 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 and people, 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.

- The Element Team

UPCOMING EVENTS:

BAPTISMS

May 7th at 1pm

Lunch: Taco Salad Bar

Last names bring:

A-L: Desserts M-Z: Taco/Salad Toppings

Sign up TODAY if you'd like to be baptized,
or would like more information.

MEN'S BBQ & ARCADE GAME FUN AT THE KEINERT'S

Saturday June 10, 2017

Join us for Men's fellowship, BBQ and Arcade games
RSVP required at moe@ourelement.org

YOUTH DOUBLE DOG DARE-A-TRON

May 20th

Middle & High School event,
learn more at:
youth@ourelement.org

GO BAGS

The month of May

Help us with our Go-Bags
collection to help kids who are
taken out of their home and
placed into foster care.



PART 2 WHAT! - IN THE - WORLD?

GENESIS 12:11-13 MATTHEW 23:2, 4-5,
GENESIS 12:5-7 13, 23, 28-29
GENESIS 12:10-20 MATTHEW 5:43-45
GENESIS 26:1-3, 6-11 EPHESIANS 5:1
GENESIS 24:67

ONE: SISTER WIVES

4/23/2017

At the end of last year, Element did a series that answered some common questions about scripture that people commonly have. At the end of that series, we asked Element to write down their own questions that we would answer in 2017. Here we are, and here is one of the first questions that was asked: *“In Genesis, lots of dudes are lying about their wives being their sisters and then God blesses them... but they lied? What in the world?”*

Have you ever done something wrong and still had a positive result? Explain.

Fear and self-preservation can make us say and do some crazy things that end up being more hypocritical than positive. In the text of Genesis 12 and Genesis 26, we see Abraham and his son Isaac lie about their wives because they were afraid of what could happen to them if someone wanted to steal their spouses away. Instead of telling the truth, they lie, thinking the lie will protect them from evil, but instead, the lie simply revealed their character for what it was; it showed them what their trust was truly placed in.

Read Genesis 12:11-13 & Genesis 26:6-7

Abraham, in this story, did something really stupid—and Isaac, his son, did the same stupid thing. They said their wives were their sisters so they would be spared any hardship or threat upon their lives.

When have you done something stupid out of fear?

Have you ever tried to fix a lie with a lie, or a mistake with another mistake?

The What In The World? question was about God blessing them even though they lied.

Why do you think God blessed Abraham and Isaac even though they lied?

Scripture tells us that ALL people are wicked and fall short of the glory of God. This means you, your spouse, your children; everyone messes up. We also learn, though, that God chooses to bless us in spite of our sin. In any other religion, God’s blessing is tied to how moral we can be; it is tied to our own goodness. The Scriptures are constantly showing us that our goodness means nothing because we are not very good. This week’s question gets at the deeper question, “How can God bless people who are not good?” The answer is that God does not bless us because we are good, but because *He* is good.

We need to remember that all of us are hypocrites; we continuously fall short. We are evil, and only God is good. This sermon addresses the fact that we are all hypocrites and God blesses us in *His* timing and *His* way. Christianity’s message is not about “our morality,” it is about Jesus.

How has God shown you grace despite your missteps?

What does it mean to be blessed by God?

Scripture shows that a blessing is anything God gives that makes us fully satisfied in Him; anything that draws us closer to Jesus. God’s blessing is meant to help us relinquish the temporal and hold on more tightly to the eternal. Often it is the struggles and trials, the aching disappointments, and the unfulfilled longings that best enable us to do that.

Would you consider yourself blessed by God if life did not work out the way you want it?

Abraham wasn’t righteous; he was a knuckle head. He viewed Pharaoh and the Egyptians as the evil enemy and in so doing acted like a hypocrite. Isaac wasn’t righteous; he was a knuckle head. He viewed Abimelech and his people as the evil enemy and in so doing acted like a hypocrite. They acted this way because they were sinful and lost, just like all of us. The beauty of the Gospel is that Jesus came and became one of us. He who knew no sin took on the weight and the burden of sin on the cross for our sake. He who was perfect took on all of the broken imperfection, darkness, including the hypocrisy, of the human race.

The story of Jesus is not just the story of someone who died at the hands of His enemies; it is the story of someone who died *for the sake of His enemies*. The truth is that there are sinful human beings and a sinless Savior who took on the sins of the world.