

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:

REDEMPTION GROUPS

Begin this September

Join us for 9 weeks of focused and applied Bible Study through the book of Exodus, and see where God is wanting to bring Healing and Restoration in your life.

Check out our website for the full schedule, for more information, and online registration form.
Must Register by August 20th, but the sooner the better.

www.ourelement.org/redemption

YOUTH BEACH TRIP

June 29th, 5:30pm

All 7th-12th Graders Welcome!



PART 2 WHAT! — IN THE — WORLD?

MARK 9:41
GENESIS 13:1-13
GENESIS 19:1-8

2 PETER
GENESIS 19:9-13
GENESIS 19:16

GENESIS 19:18-20
GENESIS 19:30-37

TEN:

LOT'S DAUGHTERS & NEEDING A PLAN B

6/25/2017

In our current What in the World Part 2 series, we are answering questions you had asked us at the end of last year. Sometimes, when we read the scriptures, there are questions about the text that we don't know how to ask (or maybe verbalize); this series was a way to try to answer some of those lingering questions.

Are there any What in the World questions you have thought up during this series? (You can email them to questions@ourelement.org and we may do another one of these series in the future).

It seems the questions that many have about the scriptures come from personal experience and pain. Here is this week's question: *"What is the deal with Lot's daughter sleeping with him? As an abused daughter, I wonder why God would allow that in the bible. Nothing else is said, like it is no big deal. This gives weak minded fathers the ability to think it is OK?"* First, the bible nowhere condones this type of behavior, the story is recounted in the Scriptures for a purpose. Second, it is a good question because our present understanding of these ancient narratives will affect how we live out the good news of what Jesus came to do in our lives.

Have you ever seen someone have a misunderstanding of something in the bible that affected their behavior?

How were their actions a result of their misunderstanding?

The story of Lot committing incest is found in Genesis 19, but we need to start in Genesis 13 to truly understand the type of person Lot was. Lot is an opportunist who lives by sight and not by faith. The first time we meet Lot, he subtly stirring up conflict among those who surround Abraham because he is a grumbler who is not satisfied with Abraham's generosity. Abraham is the one who sees conflict brewing and steps out to take care of the rising conflict in order to make peace. Abraham gives Lot the choice of the land before them to raise his livestock, Lot doesn't pray or involve God and chooses the land that leads to Sodom and Gomorrah.

Have you ever made a decision without praying about it?

Have you ever prayed about a situation and what God told you to do was different than you thought?

How does God lead/speak to you?

Lot moves to Sodom and it destroys his family. At one point God sends two angels into the city for judgement, two witnesses were required to convict in a court of law and the Bible is showing that God is not quick to judgment. While these angels are in the city of Sodom they stay at Lot's house. When the men of Sodom find out about the strangers, they surround Lot's house and demand to have sex with the men. In that culture this would have been a way to show dominance over other cultures and a way to emasculate them. In order to try to stop the mob from raping these guests in his house, Lot offers the mob his virgin daughters to rape instead. This shows how Lot had become part of the problem in Sodom and nowhere near the solution.

Where in your life have you been part of the problem around you (grumbling at work, mocking others, being lazy) and not been part of the solution?

Have you ever lived in a way that didn't reflect the character of God?

Needless to say, God brought judgment upon Sodom while dragging Lot and his family out of the city (nearly kicking and screaming.) Lot doesn't want to return to fellowship with the believer, Abraham, and instead ends up living in a cave with his daughters. It is in this place the daughters hatch a plan to get their father drunk and sleep with him so they can have children. It is sad because this is simply a reflection of the culture in which they were raised and Lot's poor parenting that didn't value his daughter's purity or innocence. This story is in the bible to wake us up and tell us that what we do, where we live, and what we expose ourselves (and our children) to matters.

What example do you think your life sets for others?

What example would you like it to set?

Where does our hope come from in something as awful as this story? If we keep reading the Bible we eventually get to the book of Ruth; Ruth was a Moabite. One of these kids that came out of this incestuous union was named Moab, his family becomes the Moabites. The Israelites hate the Moabites and the Moabites war against the Israelites... and yet eventually an Israelite named Boaz will fall in love with Ruth the Moabite and she will become one of the ancestors of Jesus. This tells us that God doesn't condone sin that we have done or that has been done to us, but He can redeem it. Too many people let their past decide their future, but with Jesus ALL THINGS can be new and renewed.