

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:

JOIN OUR NEW BULLETIN BOARD

Share/swap/offer goods & services to all of Element.

Must attend Element to join, rules apply.
facebook.com/groups/ECCbulletinboard

PARENTS OF PRESCHOOL-ELEMENTARY

**Like our Facebook page to receive our
"Big Picture" question each week!**

facebook.com/groups/eccekids

MEN'S DEEP-SEA FISHING

**July 9th, space is limited to 24 spots, sign up today at
moe@ourelement.org**

Boat Charter for 5 hours - \$58
Rod, License and tackle rentals available.

PART 2 WHAT! — IN THE — WORLD?

JUDGES 19:29
JUDGES 21:25
JUDGES 19:1-3

JUDGES 19:15-16
JUDGES 19:22-29
JUDGES 21:25

JUDGES 20:18
ACTS 4:36-37
EPHESIANS 4:17-24

ELEVEN: CONCUBINES

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At the end of last year, Element did a series that answered some questions about scripture that people have commonly asked. As the series ended, we asked the people of Element to write down their own questions that we would answer in 2017. This week's question deals with one of the most bizarre stories recorded in Scripture. Here is the question: "[In] Judges 19-21. There is a Levite and he throws his concubine to a group of rapists. He then dismembers her body and sends the pieces to all of Israel and incites a war. Why is this in the Bible? How does it represent God and His grace?"

While we may ask "What in the world?!" we also believe that *all* of the Bible is written by God for our teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.

When you heard this message what stood out or surprised you?

Last week we learned about Lot's daughters and the moral corruption of Sodom and Gomorrah. The Scriptures remind us that with Jesus, *all things* can (and will!) be made new. The Bible shows us the nature of humanity and sin; all biblical narratives show us the goodness of God through His plan of redemption. As human beings, and as Christians, we get to serve God by being His image bearer whether we are conscious of it or not.

What does it mean to bear an image? (*Do you think of iPhone, Nike, Disney, or ____?*)

When you hear the term "image bearer" what do you think of?

When you know who you're made to be, who you are meant to be reflecting, or who you are bearing the image of, does it change how you think about your life?

Why or why not?

Everyone has a job or work to do, some people even happen to get paid for that job. The work we do in our lives is more than a 9-5 job. Imagine though that someone offered you a job (an opportunity to work), and explained the *why* of the job; but then said it is hard and dirty and would never end...

What would you think?

Now imagine that same someone explained that you were actually created perfectly for the job...that the vocation is as vital to *your* life as you are to the job (or in this case, the calling)...

How would knowing this big picture change your perspective of the vocation?

Does knowing you are part of something bigger than yourself comfort or discourage you? Why or why not?

As an image bearer of God, what does it mean to have a "covenant of vocation?"

Is the world around you (people, relationships, even nature) flourishing as a result of you being a part of it?

The Apostle Paul was from the Tribe of Benjamin. God uses Paul despite (or maybe because?) of his crooked family tree.

Read Ephesians 4:17-24.

What does it mean to "put off your old self" and to "put on the new self?"

How are you living life in the likeness of God?

How could you help others, and others help you, to grow in holiness and righteousness?

The story of the Bible is about the ultimate love story between God and us, His people. Our kindly intentioned Creator wants to redeem us, His creation, no matter how far we have run from Him and how dirty we may be. Let's live every day with the knowledge that we are fulfilling a vocation given to us by an awesome and good God!