



ELEMENTS

Week 1: Getting Started

ICEBREAKER:

Open up your group discussion by asking each person to give the following three pieces of information.

1. Name, spouse's name, and children's name
2. How did you find Rush Creek and how long have you attended?
3. What fruit or vegetable best describes you? Why?

DISCUSS YOUR EXPERIENCE:

What aspect of the "Elements" class impacted you the most? Why?

INTRODUCTION:

At The Church on Rush Creek it is our belief that we become more like Christ when we surround ourselves with like-minded believers who can both challenge and hold us accountable for our spiritual growth. In our church we refer to these spiritual growth communities as LifeGroups. Our LifeGroups are modeled after the early Christian church.

Acts 2:42-47 (HCSB)

⁴² "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers. ⁴³ Then fear came over everyone, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. ⁴⁵ They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as anyone had a need. ⁴⁶ Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple complex, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with a joyful and humble attitude, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to them those who were being saved."

Within this passage we find several truths about LifeGroups and how we are intended to "Do Life Together."

1. Scripture: We should meet regularly to study God's Word and grow in our knowledge of Him
 2. Prayer: We need to develop our relationship with the Lord by calling out to Him in prayer
 3. Service: We must reach out to our community and serve others by using our Spiritual Gifts
 4. Care: We are called to care for each other in our times of need, we should become "2am friends"
 5. Always Fill the Empty Chair: We are commanded to tell others about the good news of Jesus Christ
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FOCUS:

Are you ready to take the next step in your personal relationship with Jesus Christ? Are you ready to better understand His word and utilize it for guidance in your life? Are you ready to strengthen your prayer time and grow closer to Him? Are you ready to find your Spiritual Gifts and use them for God's church? Are you ready to spread the good news of Jesus Christ through telling your own faith story? If yes, you are in the right place.

Over the next several weeks we will be discussing these basic "Elements" of the Christian life. In order to equip you for our studies we are also introducing some simple spiritual learning steps we are calling "The Five R's" (**R**ecall, **R**eveal, **R**eflect, **R**ecognize, & **R**espond). Utilizing these steps should enable you to take any passage of scripture, analyze it, and apply it



to your life. Each of you is being provided a bookmark that you can use daily to help you remember and apply these steps.

RECALL: Prior to beginning any study session, you will want to briefly recall the previous sessions primary teaching or message. What was the main truth that impacted you? Why? What do you think God was trying to show you? How can you apply it to your life today?

REVEAL: Before reading your selected Bible passage, stop and pray. Ask God to help you understand and grasp the truths of the Scripture you have selected. Now read the passage, several times if necessary, to a point where you can retell the story in your own words.

REFLECT: Use your HCSB Study Bible or other Bible tools to help you discover the context of the Scripture: the “who,” “what,” “when,” “where,” and “why” of the particular passage. A study Bible will provide this information either in the introduction section to each book or in the study notes. You can also use online Bible resources such as www.blueletterbible.org, www.bible.org, or www.mystudybible.com.

RECOGNIZE: Identify the main truth(s) and/or promises found in the selected passage. Consider how each truth or promise was intended for the original audience, as well as how they can be applied today.

RESPOND: Ask yourself: “So What?” and “Now What?” Based upon the selected passage, what is God saying to you? What is He asking you to do? How does He want you to respond? Keeping a journal of Scriptures, the identified truth(s) and/or promises, and your personal responses is a perfect way to keep track of your growth.

THIS WEEK:

Your assignment is to apply the five (5) spiritual learning steps (**Recall, Reveal, Reflect, Recognize, & Respond**) to study Colossians 1: 15-23. This passage expounds on God’s Story by describing the centrality and glory of Jesus Christ. Start by focusing on one “**R**” step per day and be ready to share your learning’s next week!

LEADER’S NOTE:

For those people who are joining this “Elements” group they may now complete their Rush Creek “New Member Commitment Card.” Please have them return the card to their “Elements” group leader for submission to the LifeGroup Pastor.

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