

NOVEMBER 2017



connect faith + life

connections

ELEMENTS by Rod Felton

What if the purpose of the church, the gathering of God's people, could be explained by a few key essential areas or elements? What if God gave us powerful directions on how to impact lives in our church body and our city and ultimately bring Him glory? Well, it shouldn't come as a surprise to us that He has already done that! It is all laid out for us in the Scriptures!

Next week we begin a new sermon series on the core values of St. Mark's. These represent the characteristics of living a life of faith in Christ. The sermon series is entitled **Elements**. The word "elements" is defined in the dictionary this way:

el·e·ment

ˈeləmənt/ noun

plural noun: elements

"a part or aspect of something abstract, especially one that is essential or characteristic."

We will break down St. Mark's six core values, or elements into four weeks:

Gather – Worship: As we gather, whether in the church building, homes, work, or out and about in our daily walk, we are Christ's ambassadors with a call to focus on glorifying God with our heart and life.

Give – Stewardship: As the earth brings forth its bounty and is fruitful, we too, experience the gifts of God and return gifts to Him for his glory. These could be material gifts but also very

much include the gifts of time and talent. As we examine all that He called the church to be and do, how has he blessed you to be a part of it?

We invite you to come prepared on November 12 to recommit to a life of growth in Stewardship. Our prayer is that you grow toward the biblical principle of a tithe (10%) of your income for the work of the kingdom, to give glory to Christ here and beyond the walls of St. Mark's.

Grow – Fellowship and Discipleship: As we share our lives together in small groups and care in community, we grow. It's about spending time being guided by God's Word and also letting the Word find its way into every part of our life in community as we disciple others in Christ.

Go - Service and Evangelism: God calls us to reach out with love, using the gifts and abilities He has given us, to serve the body of Christ and to reach out in love beyond the Christian community. We must ask ourselves, how do we seek to bless others each and every day of our life?

In this four-week series we will have the opportunity to recommit to following Christ in each of the core values. As we take time to be re-energized in our calling, passion, and mission in Christ, we pray that the body of Christ would be marked by the **Elements** of love and grace that will cause us to glorify God, give from our abundance, grow in faith, and go to serve him!

