

# WHY STORY?

At Element we believe it is important for people around us to understand the changes that are taking place in our own lives based on the work of Christ in us. To help others understand what Baptism is and what it means to those being baptized on a personal level, we have asked them to share their life and stories with you, those attending and those online, in a more personal way than maybe you are use to.

In Baptism we are making a public statement about our life and commitment to walk in the ways Jesus calls us. Many people only get the Jesus "as seen on TV" and don't understand what Jesus does in "real life" or what following Him looks like on a practical level. Baptism is not magical, but it is a deeply spiritual event that reflects the work Jesus has done in our lives. The act of Baptism is symbolic in that we identify with the death and resurrection of Christ. We are essentially being buried (by going under the water) and raised to walk in new life (by coming out of the water).

The entire point is public identification with Christ and His work within us. That He is our great God and Savior that has come to restore a broken humanity that cannot have a relationship with God on our own. He is the Redeemer, He is the Remedy, He is the Hope, and He is our Life.

We also have the hope that one day you too will come to the saving knowledge of trusting in Jesus with your life. It makes all the difference in the world.

Aaron



# OUR STORIES

July 5th, 2020



ELEMENT  
christian church

# ASHLEY SLOCUM

My name is Ashley Slocum, I am 36 years old. I was born in San Diego, CA and moved to Santa Maria early in 2016 with my husband Nicholas and our 2 kids Dailan and Jameson. My family was looking for a new church to attend and we happened to drive by Element one Sunday morning in May 2016 and have been attending ever since.

I grew up with little to no religion. My Mother took me to a church occasionally, as a child, but it wasn't Christian. My Father never goes, or went to church (although I think he would like to). My Mother is currently a Wiccan and has many hang-ups regarding the Christian religion.

In high school I started attending a Christian church with a friend of mine, and without knowing the true meaning of it, I got baptized. I soon stopped going to church once I realized that I was only enjoying it because it was a teenage hang-out time instead of the worship part.

I met my husband in 2010 and started attending church again, with him. Growing up I built a lot of walls against any sort of religion/worship/religious gathering/etc., I never felt like I belonged or fit in anywhere. I made no connections, mostly because I didn't want to so I stopped going again after we got married. This became a huge disconnect in our marriage and caused many problems with our relationship.

After we moved here, we tried a few other churches but we were driving by Element one day, and I suggested that we try that one, Nic was more than willing. I felt instantly comfortable and when we sat down, Nic was welcomed with a shoulder massage (by his friend Donald Weiting) I had no idea who it was, but to this day, it

makes me laugh. I feel like that was a perfect depiction of Element's welcoming community.

I have never met such a friendly group of people who are so willing to help others. I have felt at home ever since and this eventually broke down the walls I had built up for so long. It took a couple years of going to church, joining a GC, making some really great Christian friends, attending Element U and going to the Gospel Class to help me realize what God was doing in my life. He was working to welcome me into His family and even though I resisted for years, His power and grace and patience finally worked its way through to my heart.

My decision to get baptized came to me a few months ago but COVID-19 happened and they weren't holding any baptisms for a while. I am so happy to declare to my closest friends, through my baptism, that I love Jesus and want to follow Him for the rest of my life and beyond.