

# 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

September 10th, 2023



ELEMENT  
christian church

# KLAYTON BOUZA

Hi, my name is Klayton Bouza and I am eight years old. I like to do taekwondo, and I am currently an orange belt. My favorite food is rice cakes, the salt ones. When I grow up, I might want to be a doctor so I can help people feel better.

When I was six years old, I invited Jesus to come into my life. I was with my mom, and we talked about Jesus and what it means to believe in Him and live for Jesus. Before I was six, I never felt the Holy Spirit, but when I was seven or eight, I was in the car with my Dad & Duke and I heard a worship song, and I felt the Holy Spirit dancing in my heart.

As a Christian, it's important for me to show other people love. To show my love for God and others, I like to make sandwiches, take them to the homeless, and tell them about Jesus. Now, I want to show others I love Jesus by being baptized.

# DUKE BOUZA

Hi, my name is Duke Bouza, and I am eight years old. My favorite animals are penguins and giraffes. I enjoy baseball and playing Fortnite & Rocket League. When I grow up, I want to be a veterinarian to help animals feel better.

I asked Jesus to come into my life when I was six years old. I was with my mom and my brother, and we all talked about Jesus, and we talked about what it meant to believe in Him. I decided then I wanted to believe in Jesus and live for Him. Since becoming a Christian, when listening to worship music, I can feel the Holy Spirit moving and become emotional at times.

I want to get baptized today to show people that I love Jesus, follow Jesus, and are following Jesus' example of being baptized.

# DAVONNA TEIXEIRA

My name is Davonna Teixeira. I'm 14 years old and recently started high school. I was born and raised in Santa Maria, California. I have been going to Element Church for as long as I can remember.

I can't define a specific time I accepted Jesus as my savior. I have a ton of mixed memories of when I was younger. I would repeatedly ask Him into my heart. I did this to make sure Jesus was with me because at times it didn't feel like He was. In Sunday School, I'd always be the kid that was messing around the entire time. I saw church as something I did every Sunday and not an opportunity to get closer to God.

It wasn't until this past year that I realized what it means to be a Christian. I looked at other people my age at Sunday Service, youth group, and Christian camps. I'd admire their relationship with God while comparing it to mine. I saw other people having their full faith in the Holy Spirit and I'd envy them because I frequently found myself questioning God. I always felt guilty because I'd only go to the Lord when I needed something when instead all I needed was Him.

Around a month ago I heard someone talk about lukewarm Christians. I felt like I could really relate to that topic and I could feel the Lord convicting me. It was an extremely difficult thing to admit and took me about a week of prayer to talk to someone. After, I finally felt motivated to grow my relationship with God.

I want to follow Jesus for the rest of my life. Jesus is my savior, and I am devoting the rest of my life to worshipping Him. It is the least I can do for all that He has done for me (like rescuing me from my sin.) I love Him so much and I want everyone to know it. That is why I decided to get baptized today.

Thank you for taking your time to learn about my journey with God.

# IAN BRADY

My name is Ian Brady. I am 13 years old. I was born in Bakersfield but my family moved to Orcutt about five years ago. I live with my mom, dad, and sister. When we moved here, we looked for a church. After going to multiple churches we settled at Element and have been going since.

I have been going to church for as long as I can remember. I remember learning about how Jesus walked on water and worked miracles. I first really started believing in Christ when I was five or six years old, but this past year, I have become closer to Him. I feel like He has given me a calling to get baptized to show that I have surrendered my life to Him.

This year, I went to winter and summer camp. I learned a lot about Jesus and how He died and gave up His power so we could be holy and blameless. After both camps, I felt closer to the leaders, my friends, and most importantly, Christ. The youth leaders have really helped me understand God's Word and to get to where I am in my life with Jesus Christ.

I really like what it says in Romans 12:2 "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." God really speaks to me through this verse.

# JOHN ROBB

My name is John Wesley Robb, but my friends call me Wes. I am 41 years old and a father of two. I've lived in the Orcutt/Santa Maria area all of my life. I've been in and out of churches my whole life but have never been baptized. I felt like I was going through the motions, and I believed in God, but I never truly understood/experienced Jesus' power. It wasn't until recently that I prayed and accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I want to get baptized and commit my life wholeheartedly to Jesus Christ.

Years ago, I was involved in a car accident that has left me in pain for a good part of my adult life. I have seen many different doctors, surgeons, and pain management specialists. I have had three major back surgeries and had a pain stimulator implant put in my back. Nothing seemed to help with the pain and my life was in disarray. I was having a hard time moving due to back pain and my home was in shambles due to my inability to care for myself. I was mostly bedridden. Not only was I struggling with my physical pain, but I was struggling spiritually as well. Depression dominated my daily living and I felt hopeless.

About a year and a half ago, I was praying for guidance and a sign of Jesus' love. A friend gave me a phone number of a lady that has helped people in similar situations in the past. I called the number and met Nancy Diaz. She was a Godsend and helped me turn my life around. Her involvement in my life changed my outlook and helped me get closer with Jesus. She encouraged me to go back to church, would give me rides, and reminded me that Jesus loves me.

In hearing the Gospel, it was amazing to learn I am loved by Jesus and my sins are forgiven. In the time since I have accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, my life has changed for the better. I had major back surgery that has helped with my back pain and

mobility. Not only can I walk again, but I was also cleared to drive. I began to take better care of myself by dieting and exercising. I joined a Bible study group and read the Bible daily. I know it is Jesus who has given me the strength to do these things. I'm enjoying getting more involved at Element and forming community. I believe baptism will give me a foundation of a new life in Christ and allow me the freedom to truly live as a child of God.

I still live with ongoing physical pain, but with Jesus, I know that I am not alone and He is my ultimate hope. I know that there will be a day when I will no longer have this pain and will live with Him. I've also been excited about the opportunities He's given me to share who He is with loved ones.

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**CELEBRATING JESUS  
AS OUR HERO**

**WANT TO KNOW MORE  
ABOUT JESUS OR BE  
BAPTIZED?**

We would love to connect you with someone who can share more about Jesus and the good news of the Gospel. Our next baptisms will be in the Spring of 2024.

Let us know or email us at [connect@ourelement.org](mailto:connect@ourelement.org).