

THE LIFE OF DAVID THE MESSAGE CONNECT

The Message Connect is a devotion that goes deeper into Sunday morning's message, intentionally connecting it to our lives throughout the week. Through a 15-20 minute video and discussion guide, we challenge everyone to go deeper in their faith because we believe growing people change for God's glory and their God-honoring life purpose.

WEEK ONE:

From Shepherd To King

Go online to ringgoldchurch.com/themessageconnect to watch this week's Message Connect video.

Series Overview:

Every hero has flaws, even the ones we read about in the Bible. In the life of David—a king of Israel and a man after God's own heart—we see a hero with glimpses of greatness and wounds of pride. Through David's failures, challenges, and triumphs, we see a greater Hero. The hero was not David, but God Himself. God humbled David and pointed people back to the one, true, King.

Key Scriptures:

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Next Steps:

1. Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

Which Old Testament character is your favorite? Why?

2. Start Thinking. Ask a thoughtful question.

What did God teach you during the message this weekend? Did anything in particular stand out?

3. Start Sharing. Here are questions to help you dig deeper into God's Word.

When you think of David, what comes to mind? Is there one story in particular that stands out to you, or certain characteristics that you think of when you hear his name?

1 Samuel 16:1-13 out loud as a group. Why did Samuel travel to Bethlehem? What was the difference in how Samuel was evaluating the men and how God was? What can we learn from this?

David was initially overlooked by his father and brothers and wasn't invited to the sacrifice. What were some of the reasons why David's family would've overlooked him? How might've his brothers felt watching as David was chosen and anointed by Samuel? Have you ever felt bitter about God's calling in someone else's life?

Nobody expected a shepherd boy (David) to be the greatest king of Israel, just like nobody expected someone who was born in a barn (Jesus) to be the Savior of the world. As you were growing up, were there expectations for your future from the people around you?

From God's selection of David, we see that God's choice tends not to be the world's choice. Have you ever made a decision that got criticism from others, but you still went through with it? What was the result?

This weekend, we learned that once God chooses us, we must respond with humility and service. Jesus set the example for these two characteristics in Philippians 2:5-8. What does a proper posture of humility look like? What is the difference between being negative about your value or worth and being truly humble?

4. Start Praying. Be bold, and pray with power.

Take some time to pray over identified action steps and life issues. Pray that God would continue to actively grow and mature you in Christ.

5. Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week

We learn from the story of David that the Lord uses people whose character overshadows their capability. Our character is a reflection of our heart. Character doesn't mean perfection. David had character, but he was far from perfect. He fell hard, more than once. David was a flawed hero. However, David still pursued the Lord and was described as a man after God's own heart.

How is your heart? Is your heart about you (your agenda, advancement, and happiness), or is your heart pointed to and focused on Christ?

What is one thing you can take away from God's selection of David and apply to your life this week?

For more information about taking the next steps in your faith, visit: ringgoldchurch.com/nextsteps.

LET PASTOR DON LEAD YOUR DISCUSSION.

Pastor Don created The Message Connect videos for *Real Mature*. Go deeper and wider in your faith walk with us by going to ringgoldchurch.com/messageconnect.