



THE MESSAGE CONNECT

#BETTERTOGETHER

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: BE THE CHANGE

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

What will it take? What would have to happen for us to take the step of faith that could literally transform a community?

Well, the first step is to begin to see our communities the way God sees it - not as a geographic location but rather as a large number of people that He loves and wants to see changed. Then we simply must get off of the bench and get involved.

We need to become the light to our dark world that the Bible talks about. But it is your choice. We can choose to do nothing, or we can get in the game. We can choose to be either the woman at the well from John 4, or we can choose to be Jonah. Jonah, instructed by God to preach to the city of Ninevah, runs the other way. But the woman, after encountering Jesus, goes back to her city and tells everyone, "come see a man..." And it says that a great number of people came and believed in Jesus because of her testimony.

Key Scriptures:

John 1:1-42; Jonah

Next Steps:

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

How do people satisfy their hungers and thirsts in life?

In what ways are people you know prejudiced?

2. Start Thinking. Ask a thoughtful question.

What did you learn about God from the message this week?

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

Think of situations where one person made a significant difference in their community or the world. Discuss how their involvement changed the situation. What did those people have in common?

John 4: Discuss the attitude of the woman at the well when she met Jesus and the change that caused her to go and share with her town. How can we apply that concept to our lives today?

Briefly look at the story of Jonah. What was his response to God's direction? How did Jonah's response to a message from God and the woman's response to Jesus differ? Why do you think they were different?

As Jesus-followers, we can easily fall into the same trap as Jonah. What are some practical steps we can take to guard against a Jonah mindset? Individually or as a group, what are some ways you can begin to make a difference in your community or the community you meet in right now?

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

- What is God saying to you through his word?
- What are you going to do about it?

DAILY BIBLE READING

Day One: John 4:1-26

Day Two: John 4:27-42

Day Three: Jonah 1

Day Four: Jonah 2

Day Five: Jonah 3

Day Six: Jonah 4

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

LET OUR PASTORS LEAD YOUR DISCUSSION.

Our Pastors have created The Message Connect video for the *For Your Community* message series. Go deeper and wider in your faith walk with us by going to ringgoldchurch.com/messageconnect.