

Trusting is hard...

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: TRUST IS UNRELIABLE

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

Key Scriptures:

Jeremiah 17:5-9, Philemon 1:4-18

Next Steps:

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

For what have you relied on someone else who then turned out to be unreliable?

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.

Trust Issues And Where They Come From:

We don't come into the world with trust issues, we develop them. Trust issues occur when someone you felt close to hurts you, disappoints you, or lets you down in some way. It could be intentional or unintentional—it doesn't really matter. When trust is broken, a relational debt develops, and we naturally end up with "exes" (people we have written off or lost hope in).

Have you ever had your trust broken by someone? What was the impact of this relational debt?

Have you ever broken the trust of someone you loved and cared about, even unintentionally?

Knowing that trust is a fragile currency, what did you do or what could you have done to rebuild trust with that person?

Trust Issues Are Dangerous When Unaddressed:

Paul is appealing to Philemon to keep trust alive. When you let go of trust, you lose hope. When you lose hope, you become a cynic. Cynics pre-judge people, put them in categories, and make conclusions too quickly. They aren't very teachable, are often cold-hearted, and project past hurts and betrayals on future opportunities and relationships. This is exactly where the enemy wants you to be and what he wants you to think.

Why is cynicism something we need to fight against?

What consequences would we suffer if we allowed ourselves to become and/or remain cynical?

Learning To Trust Again:

Trust leads to hope, and hope is the antidote to cynicism. Read Jeremiah 17:7-8. Developing deep roots can help you withstand the intentional and unintentional wounds from others. Do this to become "un-offendable," not because you're emotionally detached but because you are emotionally connected to the right source!

Trust in the Lord gives us hope as an antidote to cynicism. How would hope specifically help in some of the situations or relationships you've grown cynical toward?

How would trust in the Lord help you withstand the unavoidable experience of someone disappointing you?

What are some ways that you can develop deep roots and remain connected to Jesus so that you are able to be a trusting person?

Is there anything you need to change in the routines and rhythms of your week that would help you have an even stronger connection with Jesus?

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 through his word? What are you going to do about it?

LET PASTOR DON LEAD YOUR DISCUSSION.

Pastor Don created The Message Connect video for the *Trusting Is Hard* message series. Go deeper and wider in your faith walk with us by going to ringgoldchurch.com/messageconnect.