



JESUS IS SUPERIOR

THE MESSAGE CONNECT

WEEK TWELVE: FAITH

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

Next Steps:

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

Who did you look up to when you were growing up (athletes/actors/teachers/etc.)?

2. Start Thinking. Ask a thoughtful question.

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

"The cross isn't the conclusion, but just the beginning. God wants so much more for you than just your salvation." How does this statement hit you where you are at now in your life? What else do you think God wants from you, other than salvation?

What does it look like to lose faith in something?

"People usually lose faith through the loss of something (loss of a family member, a job, a friend, health, trust, etc.). The church in Hebrews was losing heart." Have you ever been tempted to lose faith in God? What caused you to be tempted to lose faith in God?

3. Start Sharing. Choose questions that create openness.

Hebrews 11-12:2: *"This chapter defines faith for us in this way: The assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Faith is the title deed to the future and the foundation of the promises of God.* What are some of the challenges of faith in God? What are some of the rewards?

Romans 3:21-25; Romans 3:28; Romans 4:3; Romans 4:15-16; Romans 4:20-21; Romans 5:1; Galatians 2:15-16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Can you list examples of things we put our faith in on a daily basis? Why do you think it's easy for us to have faith in these things?

"There are three elements of faith: knowledge, receiving, and trusting. Knowledge comes through reading God's Scriptures, hearing what He has to say, believing it, and obeying. Receiving consists of not fighting, resisting, or combating against the Truth but receiving it as Truth. The third element is day-to-day trusting God and His Word, knowing that even if you don't see it or understand it, He is wise and good and right and we trust Him." What element(s) do you struggle with the most and why?

"The more I get to know a person, the more my faith in them increases." Is this true for you? Give examples.

Reading the Bible is so important. This is how we get to know God. Reading the Bible builds our faith in God. How does this truth hit you? Where do you think faith comes from?

Ephesians 2:8; Romans 10:17;

"There are two things that erode faith: 1) Hurt – psychological or emotional trauma, trials and difficulties in life. 2) Pride – Wanting to call the shots and rebelling against God's ethical standards." Have you seen examples of a loss of faith due to hurt or pride?

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 need to come to that place where we give up trying to earn God's love and the pursuit of being our own god. We need to place our faith in the free gift of Jesus. We need to fully trust God with everything in our lives (our sexual desires, our image, our marriages, our relationships, etc.). God is big enough to pull you through your circumstances, and He is big enough to allow you to get into them so that your trust in Him may be strengthened." What are some action steps that you need to take to grow your faith in God?

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 Hebrews — Jesus Is Superior. Go deeper and wider in your faith walk with us by going to ringgoldchurch.com/messageconnect.