



# JESUS IS SUPERIOR

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## 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 FOURTEEN: THE TRIALS OF LIFE

Go online to [ringgoldchurch.com/themessageconnect](http://ringgoldchurch.com/themessageconnect) to watch this week's Message Connect video.

### Next Steps:

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

Does anything freak you out or scare you? If so, what is it and why?

**2. Start Thinking.** Ask a thoughtful question.

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

Hebrews 12:18-21 and Exodus 3:16-19: This is what it was like to be in God's presence before Jesus showed up. There was a great divide between God and His people, because God is holy and we are sinful. Sin is so serious that it created an impossible divide between God and us.

Has there ever been a time where you lost perspective of how serious sin is? Give an example from your life.

**3. Start Sharing.** Choose questions that create openness.

Hebrews 12:22-24: *"The author is telling the Hebrew people that they no longer have to be terrified of God. There is no longer a great distance between them and God. They now have freedom to worship God without anything else in the way."*

Is there something that stands in your way when you worship God, even though you have the same freedom? What is it and why does it hold you back?

*"The author of Hebrews says that we'll be enrolled with the firstborn. In the ancient days, the firstborn got twice the inheritance as the rest of the siblings. The author is saying that Jesus, as the firstborn, is sharing His inheritance with us all. We all receive the reward of being the firstborn. We all receive the prize of acceptance into God's family."*

What does this mean for you and what should your response be to this news?

*"In verse 24 the author refers to the story of Cain and Abel in the book of Genesis. He says that Abel's blood cries out for vengeance but Jesus' blood cries out for forgiveness. He says that 'Jesus' blood speaks a better word.'"*

It is easy to ask for and accept forgiveness, but it is usually harder to forgive others. Is this true for you? What would it take for you to become a more forgiving person?

**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.

Hebrews 12:28-29: *"We should have two responses to this gift that God has given us: gratitude and worship. The author of Hebrews doesn't say that we won or earned this Kingdom, but it is a gift we have received as a result of Jesus' sacrifice. We should be grateful for this sacrifice, which we do not deserve. We should have reverence and awe for God at all times. This is worship."*

In what ways have you displayed a heart of gratitude and worship lately? In what ways have you been lacking?

What action steps can you take in order to be more grateful and truly worship Jesus with your thoughts and actions?

For more information about taking the next steps in your faith, visit: [ringgoldchurch.com/nextsteps](http://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](http://ringgoldchurch.com/messageconnect).