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 FIFTEEN: EQUIPPED**

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.

Share a story of something that happened to you during the this past week.

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. Choose questions that create openness.

Hebrews 13:1: The author is talking about loving other Christians.

Why do you think it was important for the author to say this? Why is it important for us to live this out?

"If we can't be loving towards one another in Christ, then we don't stand a chance to be loving towards those who will oppose us because of the name of Christ. Loving others in our church family should be practice for loving others outside of Christ. Loving others is a reflex of our relationship with our Creator who has loved us unconditionally."

Is there another Christian in your life that you are not on good terms with? What can you do to repair this relationship?

Hebrews 13:2-3: Most of us want to love strangers, but neglect to do so. Why do you think this is? How can we love the people God places in our lives on a monthly/ weekly/daily/hourly basis?

Verse 3 asks us to go out of our way to care for others. Is this difficult or easy for you? Why?

What would it take for you to increase your generosity when it comes to other people?

Hebrews 13:4: "The idea here is that marriage has been instituted by God, tracing back to Genesis. Marriage is His, and we should honor it. Marriage is difficult and we should fight for it."

What is the focus of a healthy marriage? What are some attributes of a healthy marriage?

What are some of the traps and lies Satan throws at a married couple?

How can we preemptively fight against these lies and traps?

Hebrews 13:7-9: "Your leaders are those who spoke the word of God to you (elders, deacons, teachers, small group leaders). Set your sights upon those people and imitate their faith, not to admire them--but to live for Christ the way they live for Christ."

Who is a spiritual leader in your life and what do you admire about them?

What characteristics do you want to imitate?

Hebrews 13:17-19: "You leaders can be translated as 'guides.' Guides in maturity in the faith, the glory of God, and the fulfillment of the Great Commission."

When it comes to obeying and submitting to leaders, what past experiences come to mind for you? Is this an easy or hard thing for you to do? Why or why not?

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 13:20-25: While going through this Hebrews study, how has the Holy Spirit convicted you or prompted you? What action steps have you taken to follow through in your convictions and promptings?

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.