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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 TWO: SORRY

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

Key Scriptures:

Luke 18, Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23

We all have fallen short of hitting God's mark of perfection. All we need to say is, "God I'm sorry," and in humility, let Jesus take the shot for us and the arrows that were meant for us. Saying "sorry" could be the very thing that has a domino effect to change our lives. When we talk about forgiveness, we also need to consider how saying asking for forgiveness can transform our relationships!

Next Steps:

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

How does it feel to be in the presence of someone markedly better than you at what you do best?

What feelings or attitudes do you have toward proud people?

How does our society regard the quality of humility?

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.

Luke 18:9-12 — Saying the word "sorry" can infuse health and bring healing into our relationships. In this passage, Jesus taught about what really makes someone righteous before God: humility, and specifically the ability to say sorry.

What are a few ways you could use this word in a way that could change your life and relationships?

Have you ever known someone who could never be wrong and never say sorry? How did that make you feel?

Are you doing the same thing to someone in your life? How do you think that affects your relationship with others?

Luke 18:13-14; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23 — Sin is defined as "missing the mark." With God, there's only one mark: God's law, God's way. His mark is perfection, so if we miss it once, we have missed it completely. We are either perfect or not perfect. It is safe to say none of us would claim perfection. And since all of us have missed the mark, we are all sinners in need of God's mercy through Jesus.

When it comes to recognizing your own sinfulness, do you relate more with the Pharisees or with the tax collector? Why?

When was the last time someone said sorry to you? Are you tempted to hold the power in a relationship to keep the offending person down? Explain more. Have you given people permission to say sorry? How could you encourage this?

When was the last time you said sorry to someone else? How did you handle it? How does it feel to be vulnerable in that way with someone else? What did it do your relationship? Do you need to let go of any qualifying phrases (like: "But at least I didn't...") that negate your apology?

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, and when?

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 *Life Changing Words* message series. Go deeper and wider in your faith walk with us by going to ringgoldchurch.com/messageconnect.