

REAL MATURE

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 TWO:

Connected

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

Key Scriptures:

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT) "Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. 25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."

Ephesians 4:15-16 (NLT) "Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. 16 He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love."

Ephesians 4:11-12 (NLT) "Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 12 Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ."

Acts 2:42-47 (NLT) "All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. 43 A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. 44 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. 45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. 46 They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— 47 all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved."

For more information about taking the next steps in your faith, visit: ringgoldchurch.com/nextsteps.

Next Steps:

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

When in your life did you "hang in there" the longest in the face of an extremely difficult situation?

Who has encouraged you the most in the last six months?

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. Here are questions to help you dig deeper into God's Word.

Jesus belonged to a close-knit group through his disciples. In order for us to grow, we need to be connected to other believers. We learn in rows. We grow in rows. How has being in Connect Group encouraged you spiritually?

Hebrews tells us that we should be looking for ways to stir one another up with acts of love and good works, but also not to neglect meeting together and encouraging one another. What can we do as a group to encourage each other and hold one another accountable?

Our impact is far bigger than we think it is, and all of us can fall into the trap of selfishly viewing people or things according to their ability to help us. How can you come ready to contribute—to church, to this group, and to your community? What one step can you take to engage and use your gifts to contribute to building up others around you (Ephesians 4)?

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

DAILY BIBLE READING:

Day One: Hebrews 10:24-25 / Today, look out for someone who you can encourage.

Day Two: Ephesians 4:11-12 / How is God calling you to respond to him and be on mission today?

Day Three: Ephesians 4:15-16 / Are you being honest with those who can speak truth into your life?

Day Four: Romans 12:10 / Is there anyone in your life you have dishonored by word or action?

Day Five: Acts 2:42-47 / God wants the church to grow numerically because people matter, and smaller because you matter.

What is God saying to you through his word?

What are you going to do about it?

LET PASTOR DON LEAD YOUR DISCUSSION.

Pastor Don created The Message Connect videos for *Real Mature*. Go deeper and wider in your faith walk with us by going to ringgoldchurch.com/messageconnect.