

THE LIFE OF DAVID 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 THREE: BEST FRIENDS

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

Series Overview:

Every hero has flaws, even the ones we read about in the Bible. In the life of David—a king of Israel and a man after God's own heart—we see a hero with glimpses of greatness and wounds of pride. Through David's failures, challenges, and triumphs, we see a greater Hero. The hero was not David, but God Himself. God humbled David and pointed people back to the one, true, King.

Key Scriptures:

1 Samuel 18:1-5

Next Steps:

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

How do you define friendship? Who was your best friend growing up?

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.

1 Samuel 18:1-5; 1 Samuel 20:1-17. What do you think attracted Jonathan to David? What characteristics attracted you to your best friends?

What items did Jonathan give David? Why was this significant, especially considering Jonathan's royal standing? Has one of your friends sacrificially put you before him or her in the past?

A good friend makes the good days twice as good and the bad days half as bad. Describe a time when a friend made a good day even better for you. Also, when did a friend make a bad day less worse?

What is the contrast between how Saul and Jonathan viewed others, specifically David? Have you identified with both Saul and Jonathan in the past? Is it difficult for you to celebrate when your friends are having more success or an easier time than you are?

John 15:12-13. Do you actively think of Jesus as your friend? If not, why do you think that is difficult to do? What are some of the similarities between Jesus and Jonathan?

What is a practical way that you can take a lower position than someone in your life? Whether it is a co-worker, acquaintance, friend, or family member, what sacrifice can you make for someone this week to show him or her the love of Christ?

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

As a church body, we have to become like Jonathan. People will be drawn to a church where everyone models friendship and love in the way that Jonathan did.

Examine yourself: Do you love the people around you like Jonathan loved David?

What do you need to let go of to become more like Jonathan? What sin, status, security, or skill is preventing you from growing closer to Jesus?

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 *The Life of David*. Go deeper and wider in your faith walk with us by going to ringgoldchurch.com/messageconnect.