



# THE MESSAGE CONNECT

#BETTERTOGETHER

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: BRING FREEDOM

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

What will it take? What would have to happen for us to take the step of faith that could literally transform a community?

Well, the first step is to begin to see our communities the way God sees it - not as a geographic location but rather as a large number of people that He loves and wants to see changed. Then we simply must get off of the bench and get involved.

Jesus took on the form of a human, lived a sinless life, and died a criminal's death. But then He overcame sin, hell, and the grave to rise again. And through this, He offers us a way out of our sin addiction. This is the most powerful rehab process of all time, and it is offered to every one of us. We do not earn it, and we do not deserve it. Rather, it is paid for in full and is offered freely to anyone who will confess their sin, believe in Jesus, and ask for God's forgiveness.

### Key Scriptures:

Mark 5:1-20

### Next Steps:

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

When was the last time you had such wonderful news that you could not wait to tell someone about it?

What do people today think of the devil and demons?

What makes people resistant to talking about God or religion?

**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.

Being in the United States, our view of freedom is often very different from other places in our world. Discuss our definition of freedom versus the world's definition. Then take some time to talk about how those may differ from God's definition of freedom.

In the main text from this week's message, we heard about a man freed from demon-possession and then sent back to his hometown as the "first missionary." What implications does that story have for us today?

Galatians 5:1 says, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free." What does it mean to be free in Christ? How does and should our freedom in Christ affect our day-to-day living?

Sometimes we exercise our freedom in Christ to the detriment of our personal testimony. Discuss practical ways we can live in the freedom we receive from Jesus and offer that freedom to others without being detrimental to our testimony.

**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?

#### DAILY BIBLE READING

Day One: Matthew 8:28-34

Day Two: Mark 5:1-20

Day Three: Luke 8:26-39

Day Four: John 8:1-36

Day Five: 2 Corinthians 3:1-18

Day Six: Galatians 5:1-26

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

### LET OUR PASTORS LEAD YOUR DISCUSSION.

Our Pastors have created The Message Connect video for the *For Your Community* message series. Go deeper and wider in your faith walk with us by going to [ringgoldchurch.com/messageconnect](http://ringgoldchurch.com/messageconnect).