



# 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: HOPE OR DESPAIR

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

### Key Scriptures:

Romans 8:18-27

We all face difficulty and hardship, and we all long for it to end. God assures us: what you hope for has been promised, what has been promised will come to pass, and it will come to pass no matter what. The power of this perspective from God should give us peace that transcends all understanding, hope that endures through it all, and unshakeable joy!

### Next Steps:

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

What type of sacrifices do people commonly make for the sake of a future reward?

What makes it hard for some people to pray?

**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.

Romans 8:18-25. We all face difficulty, but perspective has the power to change everything, to give us reason to be filled with hope for what's yet to come. What we hope for has been promised!

What is and is not genuine hope? (Romans 8:24-25)

What causes us to wait patiently? (Romans 8:25)

When you consider the extreme hardships of Jesus' disciples and the glory that God has in store for you, how does this shift your perspective for the difficulties you face today?

In what ways do you feel encouraged when you know that what your heart and soul longs for, what you hope for, has been promised?

Romans 8:26-28. The Holy Spirit, working on your behalf, is the proof that God is at work and that what has been promised will come to pass.

How does the Spirit help us in our weakness? (Romans 8:26)

For whom does the Spirit intercede? (Romans 8:27)

How does it feel to know that even though you might not know what to pray for or what to do, the Holy Spirit is already working on your behalf, praying for and prompting you? How does this increase your confidence in God?

As you look back on everything you've experienced in your life, are you able to see how the Holy Spirit was at work? In what ways?

**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](http://ringgoldchurch.com/nextsteps).

## LET OUR PASTORS LEAD YOUR DISCUSSION.

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