

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 FOUR: SAUL

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 24

Next Steps:

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

Describe a time when it was very difficult for you to be patient. What was the result?

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 24: What opportunity did David have in this passage? Why do you think he decided not to take advantage of it?

David was anointed as king, but then had to sit under Saul's leadership, all while Saul tried to murder him. In David's position, how difficult would it have been to remain patient? How do you think you would have handled the situation in the cave?

Sometimes it seems that it is completely illogical to follow the Lord. What are you doing as a result of your faith that a non-Christian might think is crazy? What is your motivation to continue doing this?

David honors Saul despite the difficult circumstances. Have you ever had to honor someone who was not treating you properly? If so, what made it difficult? How were you able to do it?

David honoring those who persecuted him was a foreshadowing of Jesus honoring those who persecuted Him. Jesus says in Luke 6:27-28; "...love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you." How do you actively love your enemies? Do you bless those who do wrong to you? Do you pray for those who condemn you? If you don't, why not?

David had a chance to take a shortcut to the throne, but he ultimately trusted in the Lord's timing. Have you ever tried to take a shortcut to something that ended up not being God's timing? What did you learn from that experience?

Lamentations 3:22-26; What situation are you in that is requiring patience right now? Are you willing to wait on the Lord?

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

Mercy can be shown when mercy is experienced. If you have experienced the mercy of Jesus Christ, then you have to be willing to extend that same mercy to others.

Examine yourself: Are you showing mercy in your speech, conduct, and thoughts? Which of these is most difficult for you (showing mercy in your speech, conduct, or thoughts)? How have you been tested in this area recently? What do you want to improve on regarding mercy and patience? Is there someone in your life from whom you are withholding mercy?

Pray for patience and continued mercy towards others.

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.