

# 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 SEVEN:

### Dysfunctional Family

Go online to [ringgoldchurch.com/themessageconnect](http://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:

2 Samuel 13-15

#### Next Steps:

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

Do you ever catch yourself doing or saying something that reminds you of your parents?

**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.

2 Samuel 14:28-15:14 — What circumstances amongst David's children had caused Absalom to flee Jerusalem? How were the mistakes of David's children similar to his past failures?

An abundance of sin had caused David and Absalom to be separated. Sin can often drive a wedge between people. What example(s) of this have you seen in your family or in families around you?

2 Corinthians 5:17-20: David's reconciliation with Absalom failed. However, God's reconciliation with us was a success. What similarities are there between our separation from God and Absalom's separation from David?

Sometimes we can run away from God, thinking that He is angry with us, and He will hold our past against us. Have you ever had this mentality towards God? If so, why do you think you did? How would you encourage someone who was struggling with this mentality to grow beyond it?

A major difference between God's reconciliation to us and David's reconciliation to Absalom is that God initiated our reconciliation. When did you first feel God pursuing you? What were the circumstances?

Another difference is that God's reconciliation went all the way, whereas David's was only partial. We read in Corinthians that our old selves have passed away, and our new selves have come. What are the differences between your new self and your old self? Were those changes gradual or immediate?

A final difference between our reconciliation with God and Absalom's reconciliation with David is that God's reconciliation inspires devotion. 2 Corinthians says that we are "ambassadors for Christ." What does it mean to you to be an ambassador for Christ? Who comes to mind when you hear that phrase?

**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

Think of your life prior to following Christ. Is there any part of your old self that you are still dragging along? If so, what is the next step to get rid of it?

What does it practically look like for you to be an ambassador for Christ right now? What situations can you glorify Him with this week?

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