



GROUP ICE BREAKER

Share with the group what you've learned is your love language and why it's important to you.

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will show love through acts of service this week.
- I will look for chances to serve this week.

THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

This is the final message in our series on Love, today we will be talking about Physical Touch. Jesus and his touch are very, very powerful. There are many ways we can express love through physical touch with people in our lives the way Jesus did. The first way is through the touch of healing. Over and over again, when Jesus heals people, He does it by touching them. The second is the touch of reassurance. A touch can communicate what words can never say, and the ministry of sanctified touch that says "you don't have to be afraid," belongs to us now. The third is the touch of reconciliation. We often use language of physical touch as a metaphor of closeness and distance, to talk about what's happening to our souls, and our spirits, and our hearts. The fourth and final is the touch of blessing. It's been shown that children, whose bodies experienced loving touch, developed better emotional lives. Their brains developed quicker, they became closer relationally than those who were touch starved. Physical touch is extremely important, and when we are dealing with a body of another human being, we are on holy ground. Jesus exemplified throughout his life the importance of physical touch.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read 1 Corinthians 13 together as a group. Where are you challenged most by what this passage says about love?
2. Share a moment in your life where "you didn't see that coming." How did it impact you?
3. Read John 1:1-5. Why is it important that God became flesh? What would be different if he hadn't? What does his coming in the flesh mean to you?
4. Read Mark 1:40-42. What was the significance of Jesus touching the man with leprosy rather than using words? How can we "touch" those who need healing, even in the midst of social distancing?
5. Read Matthew 17:1-7 and discuss how Jesus responded to the fear of the disciples. What was significant about his response? Have you had a similar experience with fear and touch? Please share.
6. When Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these", what do you think he meant by this?



LOVE WITH TOUCH

Matt VanCleave
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LOVE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CONT)

7. Of the four types of touch discussed (healing, reassurance, reconciliation, and blessing), which have you experienced in your life that deeply impacted you? Why did it impact you as such?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- I will remember touch can communicate what words can never say.
- I will remember touch has the power to heal.
- I will offer the touch of reassurance for those who are experiencing fear.
- I will work to redeem touch where it has been damaged.
- I will not touch another person inappropriately.
- I will ask God to give me the power to love the people in my life.
- I will immerse myself in the Gospels and learn to love like Jesus loved.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- John 1:1
- John 1:14
- Mark 1:40-42
- Matthew 17:6-7
- John 18:10
- Mark 10:13-16