

# GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

## Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide SB 11.15.2020

### WHAT HAPPENS WHEN JESUS TOUCHES PEOPLE?

#### Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

The power of touch is fundamental to human life. Newborns, who are given a nurturing touch, grow faster and develop more improved mental and motor skills. Children raised with more positive physical interaction tend to be less violent when they are older. Touch can reduce stress, illness, boost heart health, make you happier, and even diminish fear. Family therapist Virginia Satir once said, "We need four hugs a day for survival. We need eight hugs a day for maintenance. We need 12 hugs a day for growth." Our guest speaker, Ivan Tait, suggested some women need as much as 17 hugs in a day. Ivan and his wife founded What Matters Ministries and Missions. They established a vision to impact and change the global crisis of forgotten, abused, and discarded children and widows in developing countries by providing self-esteem and value through education, housing, food, and health care. Ivan shared many miraculous testimonies demonstrating "What happens when Jesus touches people?" Let's get into our study.

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What stood out to you during this week's study?
2. Do you receive enough hugs in a day? Why or why not?

#### Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

##### HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MATTHEW 20:29-34

When people cry to Jesus, He touches and heals them. In this passage of scripture, we are introduced to two blind men sitting by the road. When they hear Jesus passing by, they cried out "Have mercy on us". The multitudes warned them to be quiet, but they cried out all the more. Then, Jesus stood still and asked "What do you want Me to do for you?" They responded, "that our eyes be opened". Jesus had compassion and immediately their eyes were opened and they followed Jesus. We need the tangible presence of Jesus every day.

1. The two blind men sitting by the road mattered to Jesus, just as you matter to Jesus. How are we sometimes blinded to this truth?
2. Describe a time Jesus touched your life. What happened?
3. Even Christians will have bad days, but Ivan stated "every bad has an expiration date in the hands of God". Our trials and tribulations will end. How does this encourage you?
4. In verse 32, Jesus stood still and asked "What do you want Me to do for you?". Jesus had compassion and immediately their eyes were opened. What do you want Jesus to do for you?

##### HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

When Jesus touches us, we become transformed. We are no longer who we once were. The Holy Spirit works to reproduce the life of Christ in us. Just as a worm is wrapped in a cocoon, transformed, and given wings to fly, Christians are wrapped in the cocoon of God's love and begin a transition into the image of Christ.

## *Prepare! in 2020*

5. There are two measures of transformation including the amount of change and the amount of fruit. Looking back on your Christian walk, what are some of the significant changes in your life? As a result of these changes, describe some of the Holy Spirit fruits (Galatians 5:22) you have experienced?

### **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MATTHEW 26:48-50**

When Jesus was betrayed, He said “Friend, why have you come?”. A friend is a close intimate companion. Sometimes, it can be hard to trust a friend after being betrayed; however, if we ask Jesus to touch our heart, chains of bondage are broken and we are set free (John 3:36) enabling forgiveness. The Lord forgave us; therefore, we should also forgive (Colossians 3:13). It is better we become a blessing and not a curse for others.

6. Ivan said, “The Hebrew word for wound is a ripped soul that leaks life. It is infectious to all around”. When we are wounded, why is it sometimes hard to forgive?
7. Bitterness is marinated in unforgiveness. Why is it so important to forgive? When one forgives, how might this be a blessing for others?

### Applying God’s Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

Many people would probably agree that the Mona Lisa, painted by High Renaissance master Leonardo da Vinci, is priceless. Putting a price on a masterpiece of this caliber is nearly impossible. You are God’s masterpiece and are considered priceless. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago (Ephesians 2:10). When you seek the touch of Jesus, expect miracles. With God all things are possible (Matthew 19:26).

1. At salvation, the Holy Spirit demonstrates His endless love for you. Are you 100% sure, if you died today, you would go to heaven?
2. We are here to love God and love people. Contemplate this. How might the touch of Jesus help you in these areas?

### **PRAYER**

I’m sorry for the wrong things I’ve done. Please forgive me. I believe your Son died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead, and because of this I will enter into heaven when I die. Jesus, come into my heart and be my Lord and Savior. I willingly give you my life. Now, Father, help me do your will. Thank you again for saving me!

Touch our hearts and heal our brokenness. Help us not to be conformed to the patterns of this world, but transform us, renew a right spirit within us, and lead us down the path of righteousness. Mold us, shape us, as use us for your glory. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

*“And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit” (2 Corinthians 3:18)*