

# Lost in TRANSLATION

March 4, 2018

Week 5 Leader Guide

## THE WIN

The goal for this week's lesson is for group members to discuss the complexities of non-sexual physical touch, to examine biblical examples of non-sexual physical touch, and to see how physical touch plays a role in their lives.

3-5  
minutes

## SERMON RECAP: WHAT DID THE TEXT MEAN? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

In this week's message, we learned that physical touch is a vital part of showing love to one another.

### ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

What stood out to you in this week's message?  
Who has the love language of Physical Touch? Is anyone surprised?

5-10  
minutes

## WARM UP

Physical touch is often associated with sexually significant encounters. However, there is so much more to physical touch than sex.

**ACTIVITY:** Split back into two groups. In two minutes, list as many forms of **non-sexual** physical touch as you can. Who can come up with the most?

### ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- Did any of the forms of touch we mentioned make you uncomfortable?
- Why does this subject make us feel so uncomfortable?
- What role did physical touch play in your family, when you were growing up? Was your family open to physical expressions of love, or were you more reserved? How does that compare to the role physical touch has in your life now?

15-20  
minutes

## THE TEXT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

**ACTIVITY:** Split back into your two groups. In two minutes, list possible examples of "touch" in the Bible. Try to balance Old Testament and New Testament.

### ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- Who was able to come up with the most?
- Why do you think physical touch is so important in the Bible?

**READ:** Genesis 33:4 and Luke 15:20

### ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- In what ways is physical touch described in these passages?
- Describe a time when you've had a reunion with someone like this?

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**LEADER TIP:** *For these next verses have a different person read each verse instead of all turning to each one. They are all the same. The reason for reading each one is to ass emphasis, and to show that this command is given four different times in the New Testament.*

**READ:** Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:12; and 1 Thessalonians 5:26.

**ASK THESE QUESTIONS:**

- What implications would there be if “the holy kiss” was still practiced in the majority of the church today?
- Many commentators debate to this day whether or not this is a command in Scripture that we still should be obeying or not. Do you think it is? Why or why not?

**READ:** Mark 5:21-34

**ASK THESE QUESTIONS:**

- Jesus often touched people as he healed them. What does this teach us about Jesus?
- Was it the touch that healed the woman?

15-20  
minutes

## DIGGING DEEPER

It's possible to live without sex - necessary, for some people, but it goes against our design to live without loving intimacy, because humans, as the image of God, are profoundly relational. God is a relational God, and we were created for deep relationships with God and with others. Since human beings are a union of material and immaterial - body and soul - it follows that our loving relationships should include both our souls and our bodies. We are somewhat comfortable with spiritual intimacy. However, many of us are profoundly uneasy with physical intimacy. If we are going to reflect God in our relationships with other Christians, we need to be diligent to cultivate not only the non-physical side of our relationships but the physical side, as well. Our sexuality is deeply interwoven into who we are. However, our physicality cannot and should not be reduced to our sexuality.

**DISCUSS:** How do we balance our human need and desire to show God's love though non-sexual physical touch with the reality of the culture we live in? (sexual harassment allegations, #metoo, etc.)

**LEADER NOTE:** *Do not downplay the importance or the legitimacy of the claims made in our current climate. The goal here is to get the group members to think about how physical touch can still exist in a world where these claims are prominent.*

Physical intimacy will take different forms, depending on the nature of the relationship between two people. In most of our relationships, the epitome of physical intimacy ISN'T going to be sex. Sex is only one expression (albeit a highly significant expression) of physical intimacy. We should be having sex with only one person, if we are married (and sex with no one if we aren't). That means for everyone else all of our forms of physical touch should be non-sexual. Therefore, it's important that we figure out how to do this sort of intimacy well, for their sakes and our sake.

3-5  
minutes

## CLOSING THOUGHT

**PRAY:** Maintain some form of physical contact while praying (ex. Hold hands, link arms, “huddle” with outstretched arms, laying hands on someone hurting or in need etc.)