



STUDY 8

A TOUCH OF LOVE

Physical touch is one of the *Five Love Languages*, as described by author Gary Chapman. For some, nothing feels more meaningful than a caring, appropriate touch. In this story, see how Jesus uses the power of touch to bring healing and hope to someone with an illness that others found unsettling.

READ LUKE 5: 12-13 (NIV)

¹² While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

¹³ Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" And immediately the leprosy left him.

See also [Mark 1: 40-41](#) and [Matthew 8: 2-3](#).

BACKGROUND

Luke 5:12-13 tells the story of Jesus healing a man with leprosy, a disease that carried intense social and religious stigma in the first-century Jewish world. Lepers were considered unclean under Mosaic Law (Leviticus 13-14) and were forced to live in isolation, away from their communities. People feared physical contact with lepers, as it was believed to cause both ritual impurity and the spread of disease. Despite these taboos, Jesus does the unthinkable—He reaches out and touches the man before healing him, demonstrating his compassion and authority over sickness. This moment not only restores the man physically but reintegrates him into society, challenging the rigid purity laws of the time and showing that Jesus' mission was to bring healing and restoration to the outcast.

ASSESSMENT

- What needs do you assess in the man who approached Jesus? Consider the whole person and address his physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs.
- Picture yourself as the man with leprosy. How do you feel as you interact with Jesus? How do you think this man's life was changed?

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MY RESPONSES

TYPE YOUR RESPONSES INTO THIS BOX!

- What characteristics of Jesus' interactions with the man would you like to reflect in your nursing practice?

PUTTING FAITH INTO PRACTICE

- Identify a classmate or patient who seems to be struggling (physically, emotionally, socially, or spiritually). Take one intentional action to support them, such as offering to study together, listening to their concerns, or helping with a small task.
- If you encounter a patient who may feel ashamed or rejected (due to illness, disability, or personal circumstances), make an intentional effort to treat them with warmth and dignity. Address them by name, make eye contact, and ensure they feel heard and valued.

CALL TO FAITH

A call to faith is an intentional invitation at your NCF meeting for students and nurses to respond to Jesus in several ways, including an invitation to follow him for the first time. At some point during the 8-week Bible study series, make space for a clear call to faith—inviting participants to respond to the gospel. Trust God’s leading on when and how, and feel free to extend the invitation more than once as the Spirit prompts.

BEFORE

PRAY: Ask God to move in powerful ways and pray that God will prepare hearts to respond to him.

PREPARE: Calls to faith are not something we do every meeting; practicing what you want to say can be helpful, including how you’ll transition to the response and connect it to the passage and your personal story during your meeting.

DURING

SET UP: Say something like: “As we close our discussion today, I want to create a space for us to respond to God and the hope he offers us through Jesus. We are all on a journey with Him; some of us have been with Him for a long time; we have said yes to Jesus and accepted His death on the cross as our punishment for our wrongdoing. Some of us are still curious about Jesus, and we fall everywhere in between. Tonight, we will make space for you to identify where you are in your journey with Jesus and take the next step.”

PRAY: Open in prayer, making room for silence. Ask your participants to prayerfully consider the responses on their card and choose one. End in prayer.

RESPONSE: Print the response card at the end of this bible study. Have one card printed for each person attending.

SHARE: Have people share their responses. Share yours first to break the ice.

CELEBRATE those who’ve decided to follow Jesus!

AFTER

Connect with each person about what they shared on their response card that they turned into you and invite them to take the next step.

Spend a few minutes in silence as you determine how Jesus is leading you to respond. Check one:

- ☐ **Commit my life**
I have decided to become a follower of Jesus.
- ☐ **Renew my faith**
I am already a follower of Jesus but have given Him a new area of my life. (vocation, relationships, etc.)
- ☐ **Lead with Jesus**
Jesus is calling me to take a risk for him. I am committing to: _____.
- ☐ **Seek the truth**
I am not ready to commit my life to Jesus but would like to talk with someone to learn more about Him.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



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