

DISCUSSION GUIDE

APRIL 18/19, 2020

WHEN TOUCH IS CONTAGIOUS – NOW WHAT?

MATTHEW 8:1-4

Note to Leaders: Every group is different, please choose the questions that relate best to your particular group.

FOR STARTERS

1. Icebreaker: Before the virus hit, did you consider yourself a hugger or not? As things go back to normal, will you greet people differently?
2. Take turns sharing any big or small ways you've seen God's goodness this week.

DIGGING IN

1. Read Matthew 8:1-4.
 - a. What did the leper ask for?
 - b. How did Jesus respond?
 - c. What sticks out to you? Is there anything surprising?
2. Read Leviticus 19:2 and 1 Peter 1:13-19.
 - a. Both passages talk about "holiness." Describe what holiness is based on these passages.
 - b. For some helpful background on this important Biblical theme, watch this six-minute video on holiness from [The Bible Project](#).
3. Read Numbers 5:1-3.
 - a. What do these verses tell us about what life was like for a leper in the Israelite community?
 - b. What was God teaching His people through this command?

BRINGING IT HOME

1. What have you been taught about God's holiness in your past? Does this story challenge or affirm your idea of God's holiness in any way?
2. Have you ever felt like you don't belong in church because of the residue of sin in your life?
3. Read Hebrews 10:22 together. Pray together as God's holy people. Confess any weakness, sin or shame you're willing to share with the group. Thank God for His forgiveness and grace.

GOING DEEPER

1. Meditate on Psalm 51 and Hebrews 10:22 to grow in your confidence when approaching our holy God.
2. Memorize, read and meditate on this scripture: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

PRAYER REQUESTS

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