

Dear 5 Love Language Book Study members:

Our second meeting was as good or maybe better than the second! If you missed the first two sessions, you can still catch up and join us for session three on Monday, Sept. 22, at 6:30 p.m. central time. We do hope you can join us!

Here is your assignment for Week 3.

Read Chapters 5-7, review the printed comments below and then be prepared to discuss the questions on Monday evening.

Chapter 5: God Speaks Love Language #4: Acts of Service

1. Impactful Acts of Service Received:
 - Share a time (or times) when someone performed an act of service for you that had a dramatic and lasting effect.
2. Diverse Experiences of Service Given:
 - Describe acts of service you've done for others (small actions with large results, much effort with little response, anonymous acts).
 - Discuss: Do you think God evaluates us based on results, or on genuine love? Explain God is pleased when His people show love through service, regardless of recipient response.
3. Exodus 17:8-13 – Shared Responsibility:
 - Read Exodus 17:8-13 (NLT): “As long as Moses held up the staff with his hands, the Israelites had the advantage. But whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites gained the advantage. Moses’ arms soon became so tired he could no longer hold them up. So Aaron and Hur found a stone for him to sit on. Then they stood beside him and held up his hands, one on each side. So his hands held steady until sunset. As a result, Joshua overwhelmed the Amalekite army in battle.”
 - Discuss: Who was primarily responsible for the victory? (Moses, Joshua, Aaron, Hur). To whom do you relate most and why? Do people, including in the church, give equal credit to those performing mundane service, or more respect to leaders?
4. Identifying Neglected Needs & Group Service:
 - Inspired by Mother Teresa, identify neglected needs in your church, neighborhood, or city.
 - Are there acts of service your group members are willing to do to meet some of these needs?

Chapter 6: God Speaks Love Language #5: Physical Touch

1. Comfort Levels with Physical Touch:
 - Rate your comfort (1-10) with physical touch in various settings (family kisses/hugs, same/opposite gender casual hug in public, holding hands in church, homeless person's hand/shoulder, embrace of elderly in a nursing facility).
 - Encourage honesty and non-judgment, recognizing diverse comfort levels.
2. Jesus' Ministry and Physical Touch:
 - Discuss examples from the chapter of physical touch in Jesus' ministry (holding children, washing disciples' feet, touching lepers).
 - Why does the Bible emphasize Jesus' readiness to touch others? (Model for love, making love real)
3. Luke 8:40-48 – The Woman and Jesus' Touch:

- Have a volunteer read Luke 8:40-48 (NLT): “As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him. A woman in the crowd had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding, and no one could heal her. She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his robe. Immediately, the bleeding stopped. “Who touched me?” Jesus asked. Everyone denied it, and Peter said, “Master, this whole crowd is pressing in on you.” But Jesus insisted, “Someone deliberately touched me, for I felt healing power go out from me.” When the woman realized that she could not remain hidden, she came trembling and fell to her knees before him. She explained to him why she had touched him and how she had been immediately healed. “Daughter,” he said to her, “your faith has made you whole. Go in peace.”“
 - Discuss: Why was the woman compelled to touch Jesus? How did Jesus know one person touched Him in the crowd? How did her touch differ? What does His willingness to stop for her, despite urgency, teach us?
4. Feeling and “Touching” God:
- Share times you felt most like God was touching you.
 - How might we “touch” God without Jesus’ physical presence? (Through the Holy Spirit, who intercedes for believers, Romans 8:26-27 (NLT): “And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will.” God is always within reach.)
5. Closing with Physical Touch & Gratitude:
- Close with comfortable physical touch (holding hands to pray, hugging). Thank God as a group for this love language and all the others.

Chapter 7: Discovering Your Primary Love Language

1. Reflection on Primary Love Language:
 - Recall your suspected primary love language from Chapter 1. Has your conclusion changed?
 - If so, how has that made a difference in how you relate to others or God? (p. 9)
2. 1 Samuel 17:4-11, 32-40 – David and Goliath’s “Attire”:
 - Read 1 Samuel 17:4-11 (NLT) and 1 Samuel 17:32-40 (NLT). Focus on David’s choice of attire.
 - Discuss: Was David aware of the challenge’s severity? What practical steps did Saul take to protect him? Why did David decline Saul’s offer? What was the ultimate result? (1 Samuel 17:41-54 (NLT)). How might this story relate to love languages? (Different approaches, different love languages are equally valid). (p. 10)
3. Self-Assessment Questions:
 - Spend time discussing these three questions, first regarding others, then God:
 - How do I most often express love to other people (or God)?
 - What do I complain about most often?
 - What do I request most often? (p. 10)
4. Impact of Love Language Awareness:
 - Explain how increased awareness of love languages has affected: (1) Your self-understanding; (2) Your ability to understand and help fellow believers. Share varied stories. (p. 10)