

# TOUCH GROUP LESSON PLAN

*“Are You Prepared Pt.3b”*

**Thursday, May 14, 2026 – 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm**

*Teaching The Bible Through Practical Biblical Teaching*

**VIP Silver Saints ZOOM Meeting ID: 812-5415-5963, Passcode: 558495**

**Call in Number: (312) 626-6799, to mute and unmute your phone dial \*6**



## Opening Prayer/Welcome

If this is your first time joining us and you did not give your name earlier, please introduce yourself! We are glad you took the time to join us today. Our group has three purposes:

### **1. A PLACE TO CONNECT – I Corinthians 9:22 TLB**

We were not made to do life alone. God created us for community, and Touch Groups provide a place to connect with others, share life, and grow in faith together.

### **2. A PLACE TO PROTECT – 1 John 3:16**

It is through life together that our problems become smaller, and God uses others to bring support and encouragement to our lives. Touch Groups become a place where others don't just know your name, but care about what is happening in your life and want to support you in your spiritual journey.

### **3. PLACE TO GROW – Proverbs 27:17**

We believe every person is created with God-given potential to make a difference in the world. Touch Groups are a place you can grow with others to become more like Jesus and reach the potential God has put inside you.

## Icebreaker:

1. What is one thing you would make sure was ready if you knew an important guest was coming to your house today?

## Testimonies/Good news/What are you thankful for?

1. What are you thankful for?

## WOF's Purpose:

1. We teach and educate - exercising believer's rights through practical application
2. We are a holistic church- development of spirit, soul, and body
3. We are a mission's church - serving both domestic and international

## Short review of what was preached at service on Sunday

1. Share one or two main points that really stood out to you.
2. Share how you can apply that word to your life this week.

## Facilitation of Notes:

### *“Are You Prepared Pt.3b”*

What is the rapture of the church? It is an event when Christ will descend into the lower atmosphere above the earth, and the dead in Christ will be supernaturally resurrected. Also, at that time, or immediately afterward, Christ will supernaturally catch away, or rapture, the church. This event will begin with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God.

But let's add **2 Corinthians 5:20** where it says, *“Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.”* If you know anything about war, before a natural war commences, nations begin to recall their ambassadors before the onslaught begins. Before God pours out His wrath on the earth during the seven years of tribulation, Christ will recall His ambassadors. I'm talking about all authentic believers and He will initiate a divine rescue operation to supernaturally snatch them to heaven so they will escape the wrath poured out on the earth during the seven years of tribulation.

#### Questions:

1. What happens before a war begins?
2. What will happen before God pours out His wrath? Explain in detail!

Read: **1 Thessalonians 4:16**

*“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.”*

The word **dead** describes a lifeless corpse. It refers to all believers who have died in faith and whose bodies are buried or scattered in the earth, in the sea, or in other places. Paul states they will rise first. The words **shall rise** mean to rise, to be resurrected, or to stand again. It is also used at times to denote the rising of emperors, kings, nobility, and royalty. That means when the bodies of those who died in faith are resurrected, they will not only rise and be resurrected, but they will rise to rule with Christ in His kingdom. Then he says **first**, meaning in first place or first in order. On that long-awaited glorious day, the first to be raptured will be the resurrected bodies of those who have died in faith.

#### Questions:

1. What is the meaning of “the dead shall rise first”? Explain in detail!
2. What will be the qualifications of those who rise first? What will they do?

Then those who are vibrant in the faith of Jesus will come next. In **1 Thessalonians 4:17**, **then** means precisely upon that moment, exactly at that moment, precisely then, or exactly then. Paul declared that in the moment when the dead in Christ are raised, then, exactly and precisely after

that, *“We which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”* Remember, he used the same words in **verse 15**, *alive* and *remain*. This means they are so important that he repeated them verbatim in the Greek. Who is Paul describing? Those who are spiritually living, spiritually robust, spiritually thriving, spiritually vibrant, and spiritually vigorous, the remaining remnant of vibrant believers who will have endured and survived every storm and will be alive and present at that time. Paul alludes that there may only be **a remnant** of spiritually vibrant Christians left at the time Christ returns for the church.

### **Questions:**

1. What happens in that moment when the dead in Christ are raised?
2. Why did Paul repeat the phrase alive and remain? Who is he referring to?

Paul then tells us what happens next to this fully alive church when he wrote that after the dead bodies of the righteous are raised, precisely at that moment, or exactly then, is when the remaining remnant, *“shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air.”* The words **caught up** undeniably mean to catch, to seize, to take away, or to snatch suddenly. It pictures snatching someone out of danger just in the nick of time. This insinuates that the rapture of the church will occur in a moment when things look ominously dark but suddenly, just in the nick of time, Christ will come to snatch His church out of danger. Not only will those who remain be snatched out of a dark spiritual climate, but they will also be snatched just in the nick of time before divine wrath is poured out on the evil in the earth.

### **Read: 1 Thessalonians 1:10**

*“And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.”*

Jesus delivered us from the wrath to come. So, if you want to tribulate before the rapture, you go right ahead. I’m taking what the Word says to heart: that I have been delivered from the wrath to come, because that wrath is coming.

### **Questions:**

1. What happens next to the fully alive church after the righteous are raised? Explain!
2. What do the words caught up insinuate? Explain in detail!
3. Why should we be shouting for joy?

Some people ask, if the rapture of the church is real and such an important doctrine, why doesn’t the actual word rapture appear in the New Testament? That’s a good question that we are about to answer, but I need you to stay with me. Many critics have argued that the idea of a rapture is a man-made concept because they cannot find the actual English word rapture in the New Testament. But it’s really there. They just haven’t studied it enough. Listen to me closely! The first-ever translation of the Greek Scriptures into the Latin language was carried out by Jerome

when he translated what became known as the Vulgate translation of the Bible. One of the earliest Bible translations was performed by Jerome in about A.D. 390 when he translated the original languages of the Old and New Testaments into what is called the Vulgate version of the Bible.

### Questions:

1. What do people question when it comes to the validity of the rapture?
2. What do critics believe?
3. Why is the name Jerome so important to this question?

The word *Vulgate* refers to the common language of the people at that time. Jerome was a scholar who knew Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. Although Greek was widely known throughout the Roman Empire, significant populations knew no Greek at all, and their primary language was Latin. For this reason, Jerome produced a Latin translation of the Bible so that the Word of God would become accessible to a wider Latin-speaking audience. To do this monumental work, Jerome moved to Bethlehem, where he lived in a small grotto that was connected to the Church of the Holy Nativity. For 23 years, he worked nonstop on his translation and commentary. His Vulgate translation became so highly regarded that it was used as the basis for translations in other languages for thousands of years. We owe a lot to Jerome for his monumental work in translating the Greek word *Harpadzo* which is the word Paul used from the Greek in **1 Thessalonians 4:17** to describe the catching away of the church. Jerome translated it using the Latin word *Rapiemur*, which is related to the Latin word *raptus*, and this is where we get the word *rapture*. The Greek word *Harpadzo*, which Paul used, and the Latin word *Rapiemur*, which Jerome used to translate it, both have the exact same meaning.

### Questions:

1. Why did Jerome produce the Latin translation of the Bible? Explain in detail!
2. How much time did it take?
3. How important did his translation become?
4. Why do we owe a lot to the work of Jerome? Explain as it relates to the word rapture!

In both cases, the Greek and Latin words mean to abduct, to carry away, to carry off, to catch, to forcibly grasp, to seize, or to snatch. Both the Greek word *Harpadzo* and the Latin word *Rapiemur* picture suddenly snatching someone out of a dangerous situation or suddenly snatching someone out of danger just in the nick of time. Because Jerome's translation was the first to be translated from the Greek version of the Scriptures into Latin, his translation became the foundation of all Bible translation work for nearly 1,000 years. Because he translated the Greek word *Harpadzo* as the Latin word *Rapiemur* to describe the catching away of the church that Paul vividly wrote about in **1 Thessalonians 4:17**, from the time of Jerome throughout all the Middle Ages and to the present, this word became well known as the biblical term describing the moment when Christ will supernaturally abduct, carry away, carry off, catch, forcibly grasp, seize, or snatch the church out of danger just in the nick of time. The Vulgate version calls this event in Latin *rapture (Rapiemur)*, and the King James Version translators translated it from the

Greek as *caught up* or *caught away (Harpadzo)*. This word was used to describe an event so important that we're going to look at some of its usages in the New Testament.

### **Questions:**

1. What is the similarity between what Paul describes and what Jerome describes?
2. Why was Jerome's translation so monumental? Explain!
3. What did the word Rapiemur describe? Explain!

### **Time of Prayer: Submit your Prayer Request**

- 1) Your Circle (friends and family)
- 2) Touch Group members
- 3) Word of Faith Leadership:
  - a. Pastor Ronald D. Walker, Jr., Evangelist Sharon L. Walker, Mr. Josef & Minister Promise Fielder, Brittany and Christian, Carmelo, Mom Cuyler and Mom Walker and the ministerial staff.
  - b. Bishop Keith A. Butler and Pastor Deborah Butler
  - c. Reverend Kenneth and Gloria Copeland

**Have you reached out to your circle today?**

### **Your Circle: (Family, Friends and those you have influence with) How's it going?**

### **Announcements:**

1. Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to everyone celebrating in the **Month of May 2026**.
2. Pick up a copy of the Bible reading calendar for the **Month of May 2026**.
3. Join us for our next Touch Group meeting, **Thursday, May 14th**. Touch Groups are small gatherings of believers who come together every Thursday on Zoom for prayer, the Word, and fellowship. We invite you to be part of this life-changing experience by joining one of our groups:
  - Generation 6:20 Youth Touch Group at 6 pm
  - VIP Silver Saints at 7 pm
  - Covenant Partners & Singles at 7 pmTo get connected, simply call the church office or speak with a ministry leader right after service. Don't miss the chance to grow in faith and family through a Touch Group!
4. Join us every Sunday for Pastor Walker's series, "*Are You Prepared?*" and on Wednesday night for his series on "*What Happens Next?*" Invite your family and friends. You don't want to miss these series.
5. Join Pastor and Evangelist Walker every **Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.** as they minister the Word at **Roy L. Schneider Hospital**. For more information call the church office.

6. Calling everyone dealing with sickness or disease from seniors to children! Join us **Wednesday night at 6:15 p.m.** for **“I Am Healed School” with Evangelist Sharon Walker.**

Come expecting the healing power of God and believe to **spring forth with brand-new organs and complete restoration** through Jesus Christ!

7. The SWAT Team has won **279 souls for the year**. Join the SWAT Team for their next outings in **June 2026**. For more information or to join the SWAT team see Minister Julie Francis.
- 8.
9. **Join us for Membership Class – Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.** To register call the church office at (340) 774-8617.
10. Join us for **Water Baptism, Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.** at Brewer’s Beach. **If you are interested in being water baptized scan the QR Code to download a copy of the Water Baptism Brochure.** To register call the church office.
11. Join Pastor Walker and Evangelist Walker for *Iron Sharpens Iron* and *Ladies-N- Love with God* on **Friday May 22, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.**

Join us for a powerful evening designed for both men and women!

- **Iron Sharpens Iron**, for a time of strengthening, growth, and brotherhood for the men and
- **Ladies-N-Love with God**, for a time of encouragement, connection, and refreshing for the women.

Come expecting a meaningful time of fellowship, empowerment, and the Word!

12. Join us for a powerful night in the presence of the Lord! On **Friday, May 29, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.**, we are coming together for a Night of Prayer a time to seek God and press into His presence.

If you are believing God for healing, direction, restoration, or divine intervention, this night is for you. Come expecting. Come ready. Come believing. Invite a friend and let’s go before the Lord together!

13. Get Ready for the **Word of Faith God’s BeYOUties Women’s Conference, June 25-27, 2026. Speakers include:** *Pastor Deborah Butler, Pastor Brenda Timberlake, Dr. Dee Dee Freedman, Pastor Michele Ferguson, and Pastor Kristina Jenkins.* Come be refreshed. Come be strengthened and Come and let’s flourish together. To Register for the conference text **"FLOURISH"** to **(248)266-9990**. You can attend in person or online on Facebook, YouTube and the WOFICC Southfield website.

14. **Volunteers are needed for every auxiliary**, Children's Church, Youth Ministry, the Media Team, God's Green Hands, Ushers & Hostesses, ZEST Team, the Sound Team and the Parking Lot Ministry. To join an auxiliary, speak with a ministry leader.
  
15. Join us for **Early Morning Prayer – Monday – Friday at 6:00 am** and **Saturday at 10:00 am**. Join us in person or on Facebook, YouTube, the Word of Faith website.

**Dismissal:**