

Connecting with Patients, Families, and Colleagues- The Role of Spiritual Care

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Objectives



Define "connection"



Identify the Five Levels of Conversation



Understand how to create "Dynamic Experiences."



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Connection: What Is It?

Connection is the process of showing people that you love them by being willing to get to know them **and** by allowing them to get to know you.



Connection: The Means (or Tools)

Connections are bonds that are most often formed via the use of:

1. presence
2. conversation
3. creativity



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Creativity Example: Godly Play

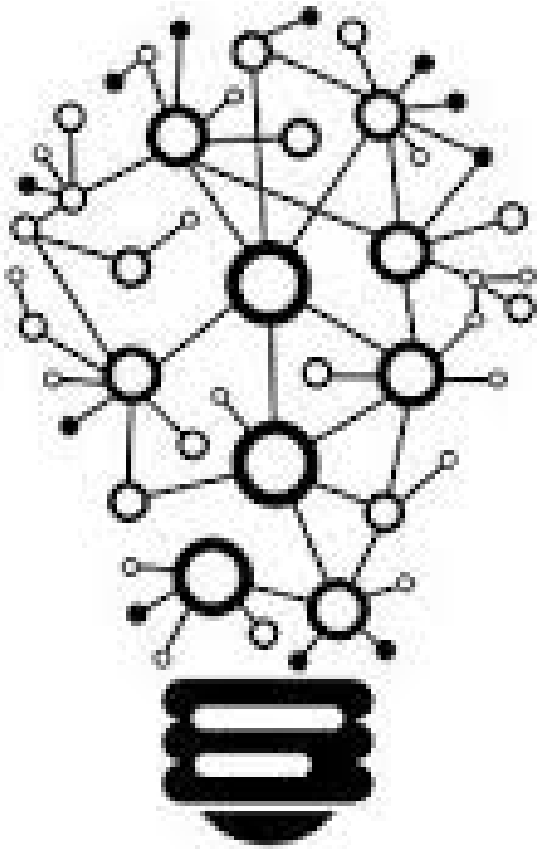




Connection

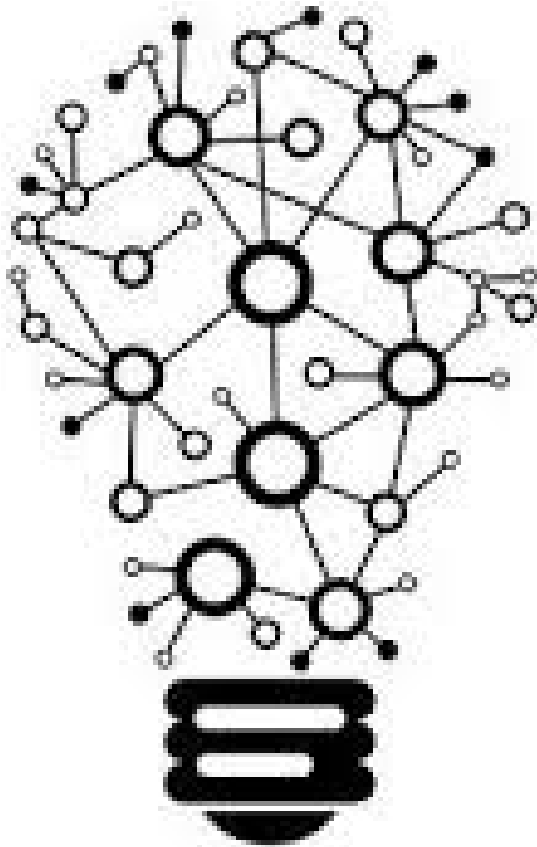
Facilitating connections
takes the proper balance of
preparation and flexibility

Connection: Prep



1. Know your goal
2. Know your role
3. Know your souls
4. Know the 5 Levels of Conversation

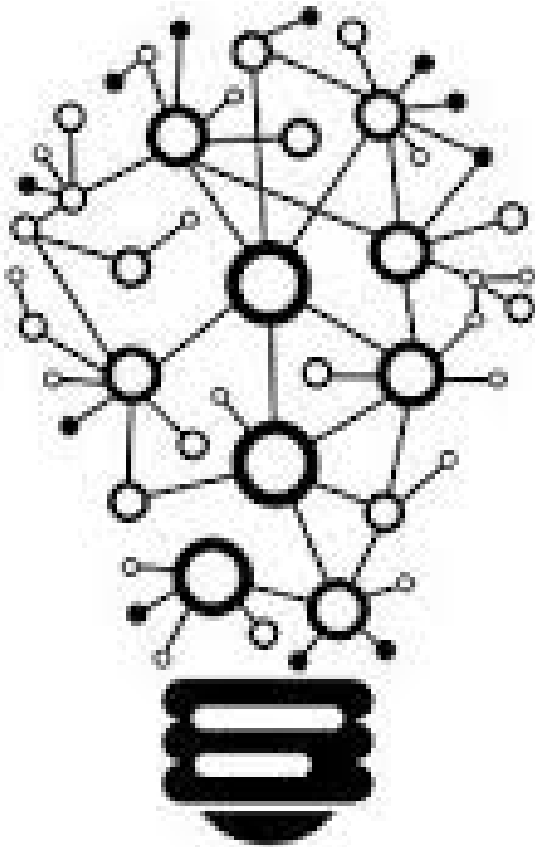
Connection: Prep



My goal-

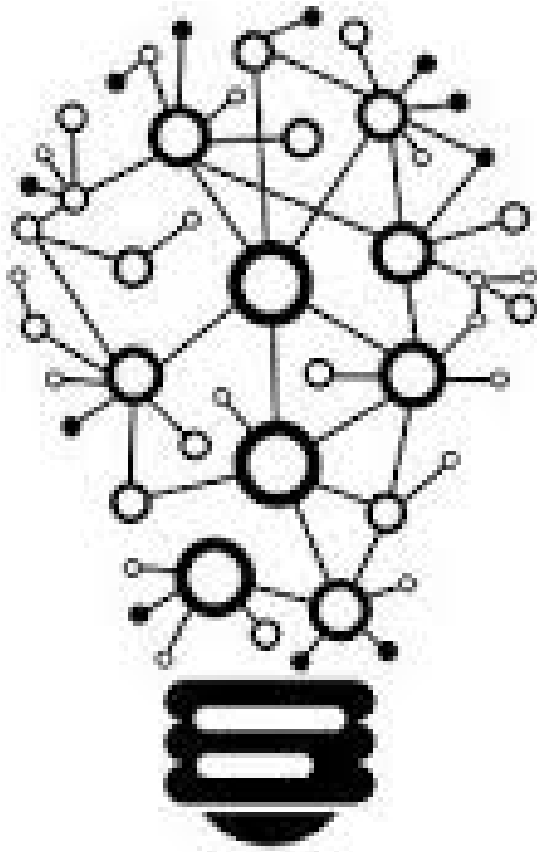
**Create Dynamic
Experiences**

Connection: Prep



Dynamic Experiences are interactions – between spiritual and/or psychosocial palliative care providers and the people to whom they provide care – that rise to the level of sacred moments.

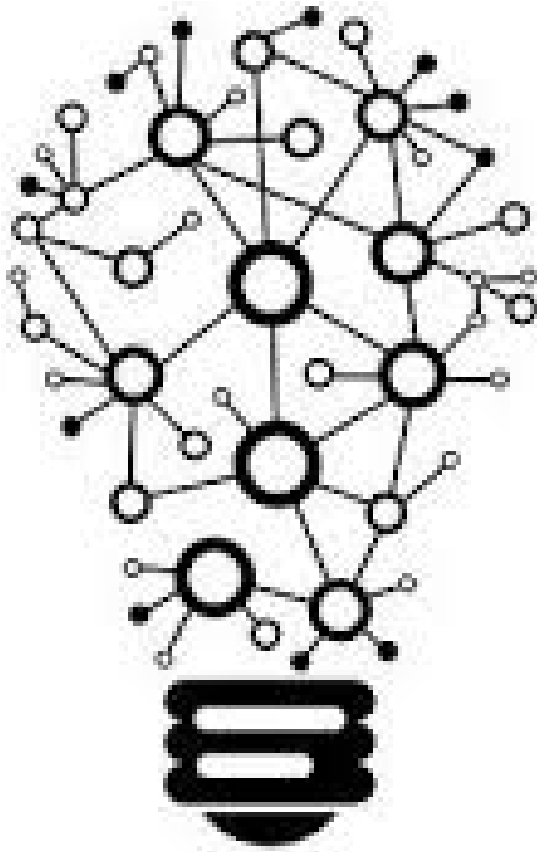
Connection: Prep



Dynamic Experiences (cont.)

Sacredness is often reflected in laughter, tears, warm smiles, shared activities (e.g. singing, storytelling, writing, drawing, etc.), ritual praxis, insightful proclamations, and much more. The point is, creating a dynamic experience is about opening space for a moment to occur by which those present are, in some way, deeply *touched*.

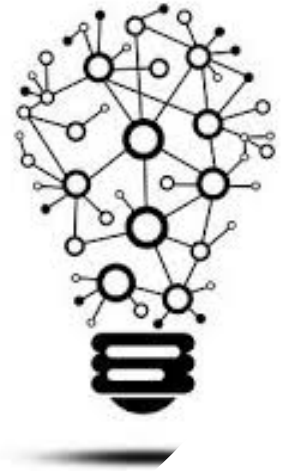
Connection: Prep



My role(s):

- *Information gathering*
- *Assessment*
- *Recommendations*

Connection: Prep



Role

1. Information Gathering
2. Psychosocial/Spiritual Assessment
3. Engagement Recommendations

Deliverables

1. Observations/Reports
2. What the observations suggest to us
3. Ways to intervene, knowing what we know now

Connection: Prep

The souls:

- Patients
- Families
- Staff



CONVERSATION *as Ministry*

STORIES AND STRATEGIES FOR CONFIDENT CAREGIVING

Douglas
Purnell

FOREWORD BY HERBERT...

Five Levels of Conversation

1. Chit Chat
2. Sharing of ideas
3. Expression of feelings/emotions
4. Exposing crisis concerns
5. Sacred Moment

CONVERSATION *as Ministry*

STORIES AND STRATEGIES FOR CONFIDENT CAREGIVING

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FOREWORD BY HERBERT...

Five Levels of Conversation

Connection can happen at any level. **Chit Chat** is critical, though, because it sets the tone for the progression of the conversation.



Five Levels of Conversation: Chit Chat

- Family
- Interests
- Stories

Connection: Flexibility

*The best laid
plans of mice and
men often go
awry.*

Be flexible



Connection: Flexibility



Insights

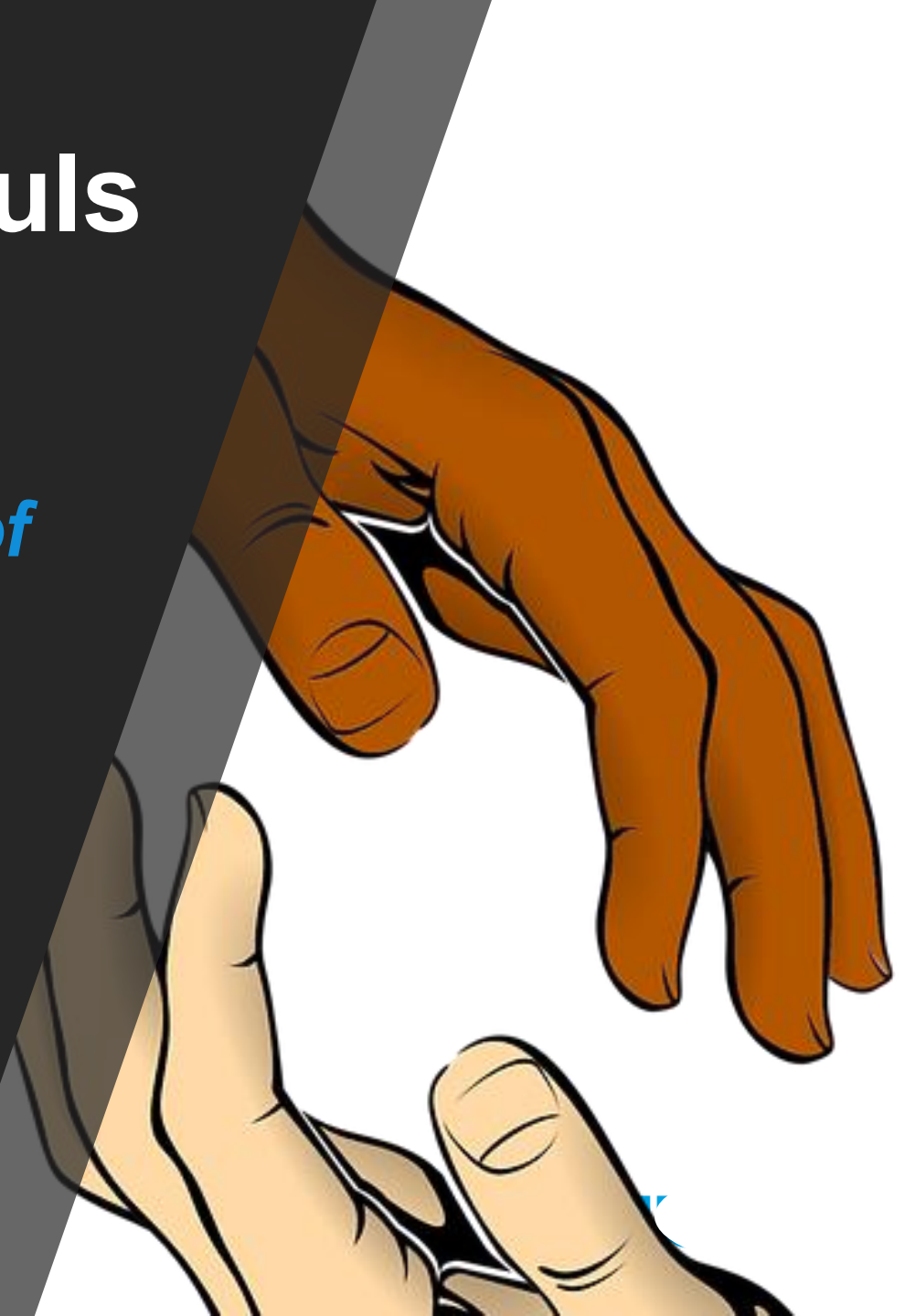
1. People often restate unaddressed issues.
2. People's journeys are often circuitous.
3. People, in some way, communicate what is or is not helpful.

Response

1. Listen for repeated themes.
2. Go with the flow (at least for a while).
3. Catch the clues/hints.

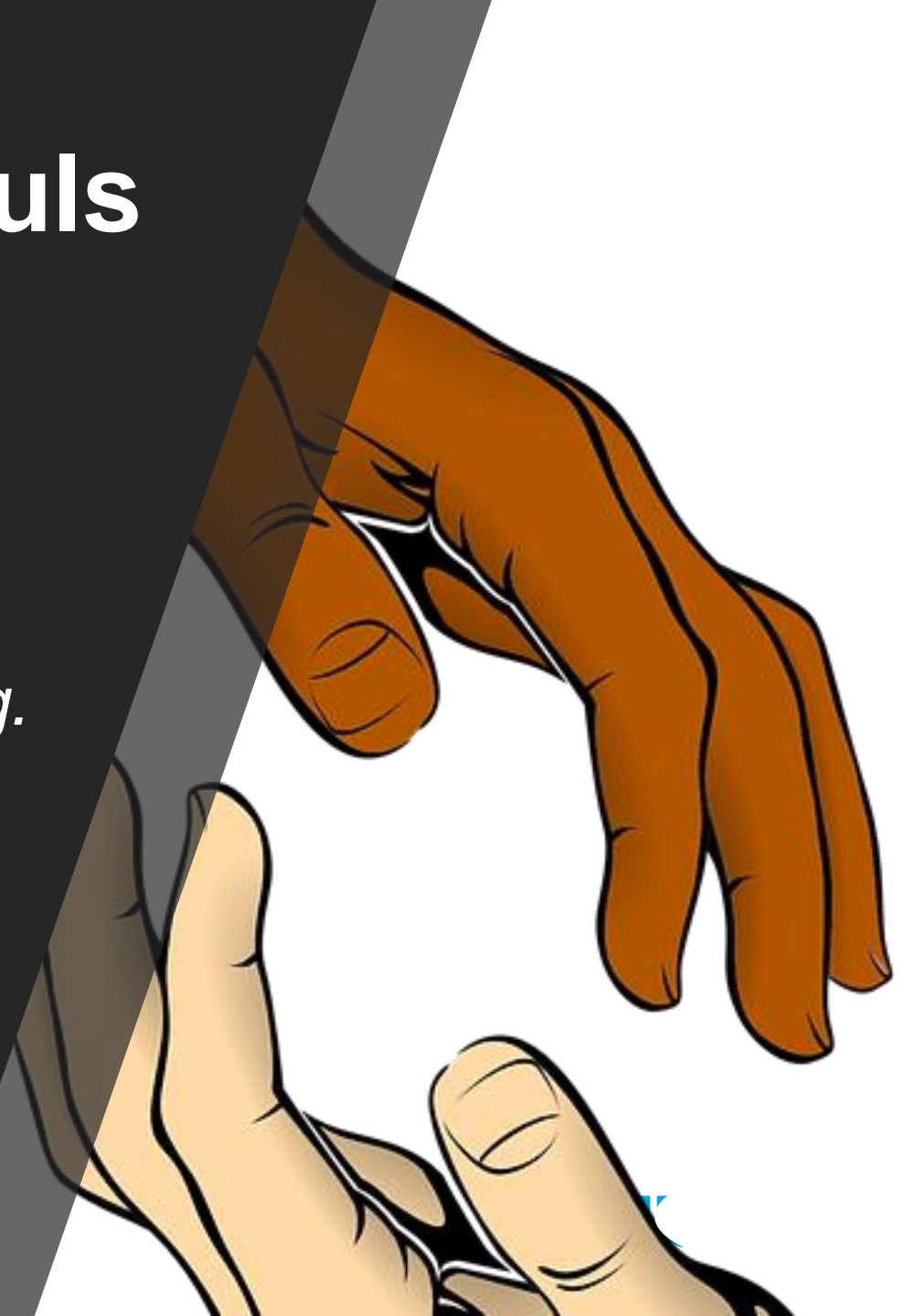
Touching Souls

Dust + *The Breath of God* =
A Living Soul
(Gen. 2:7, KJV)



Touching Souls

Nephesh (Hebrew)
means *that which*
breathes or *living being*.

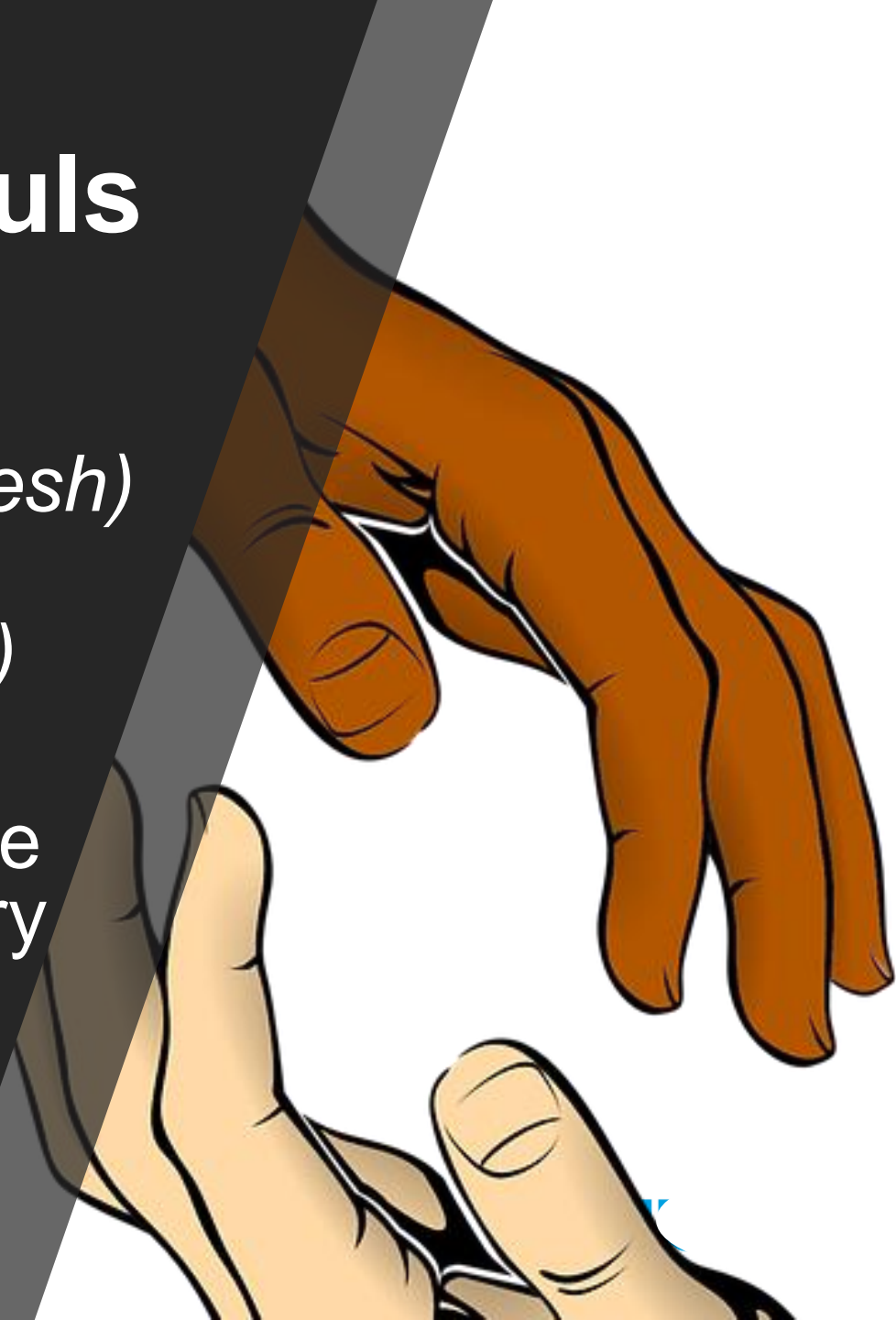


Touching Souls

*"...and all who win
(laqach) souls (nephesh)
are wise..."*

(Proverbs 11:30, TLB)

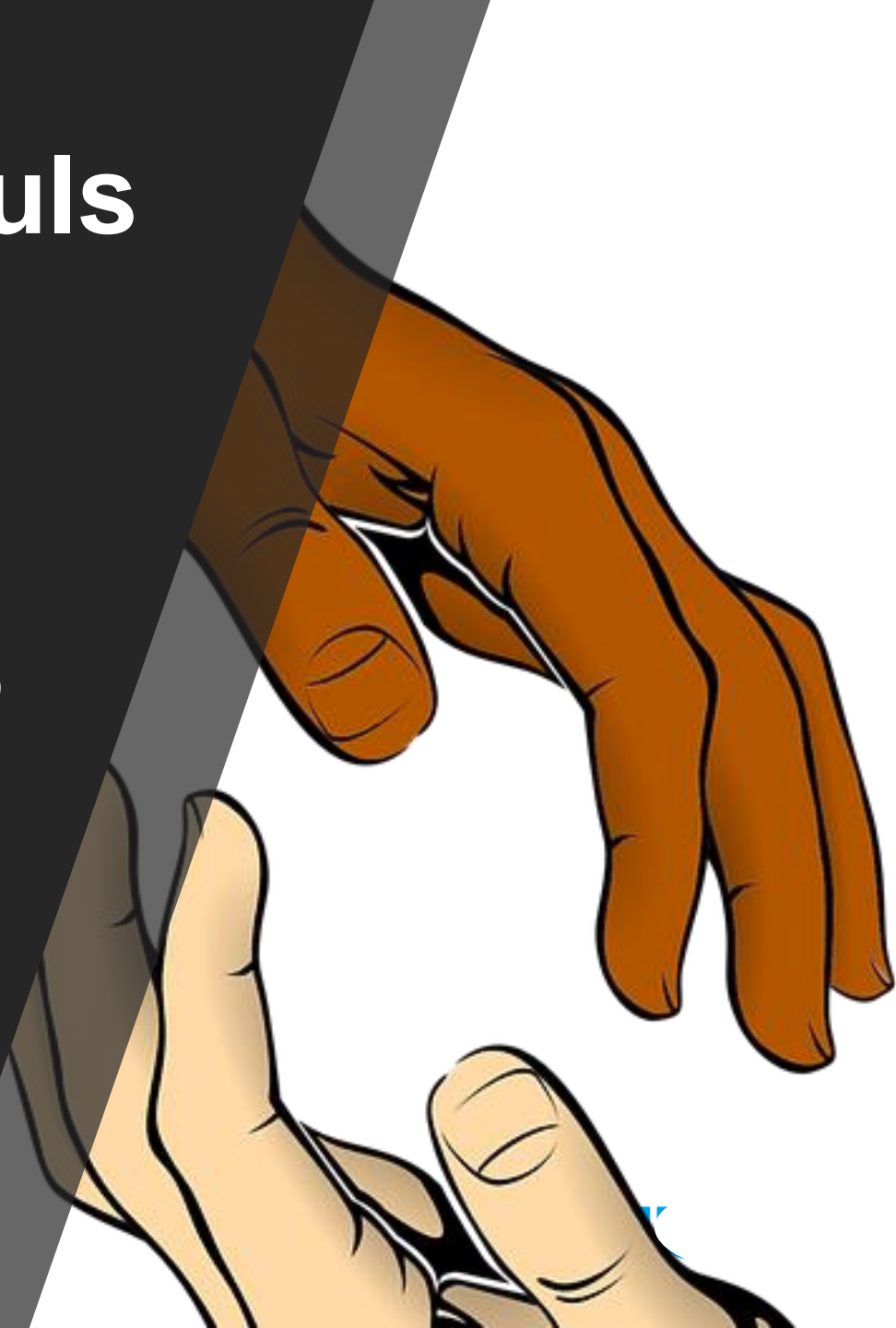
Laqach = to take in the
hand; to take and carry
along



Touching Souls

God has always used peculiar (special) people to touch the lives of those who are deemed "other," just as Jesus did.

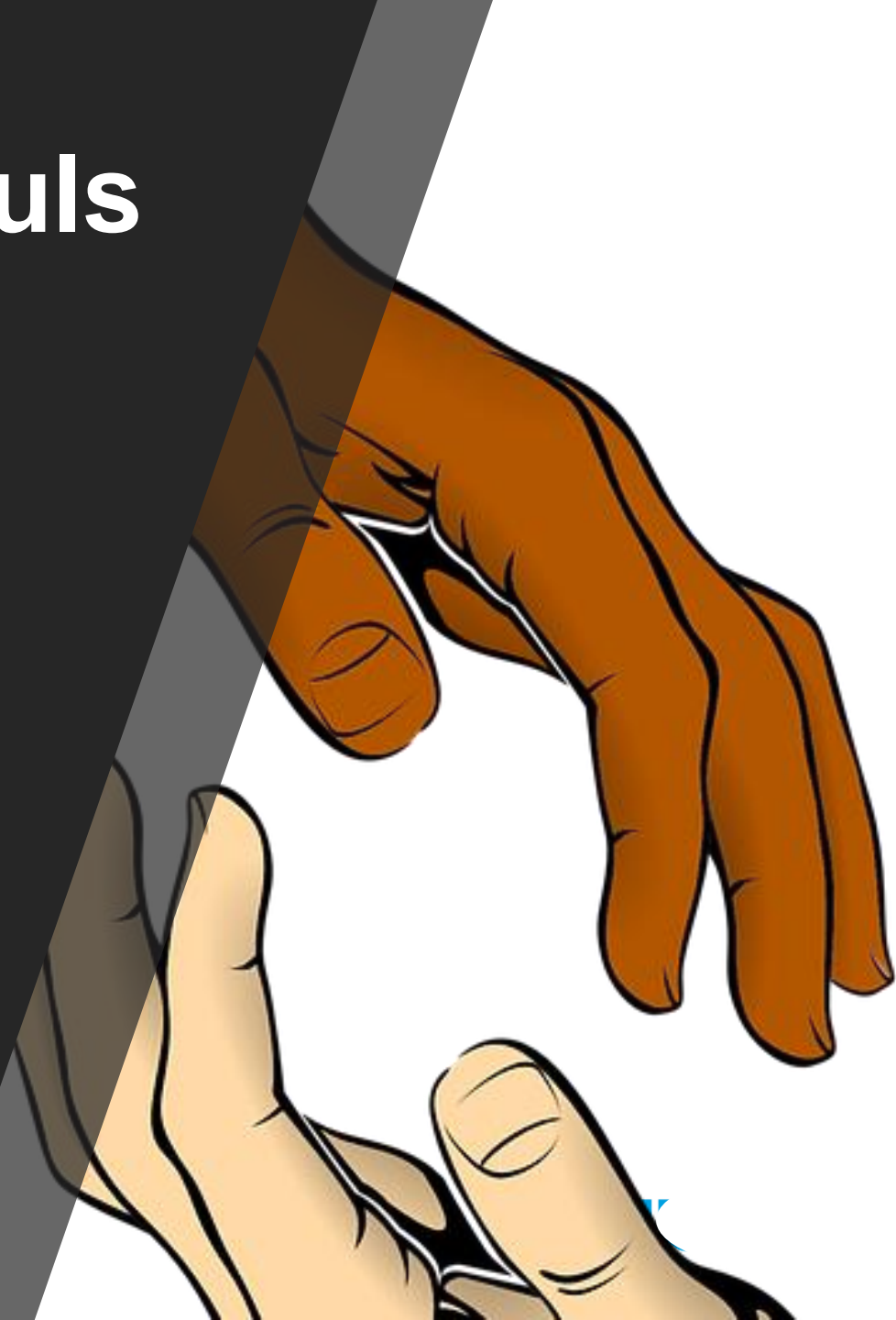
(1 Peter 2:9-10)



Touching Souls

How?

1. Be earnestly curious.
2. If asked to, earnestly share.
3. Open space to "touch" and be "touched."



Questions?