



Message Discussion Guide Week of October 16, 2022

Message: Fruitful, Part 6: Kindness

Key Scripture: Isaiah 63:7-9

Preacher: Tom Parkinson

Message Highlights:

If patience requires toughness, then kindness requires tenderness. God's Spirit wants to help us be both tough and tender as we seek to be more like Jesus.

Our world thinks of kindness as a universal value, defining it as being considerate and nice. The Bible's definition of kindness is much deeper.

- Biblical kindness is the ability to see and meet the real needs of others without compulsion or personal reward.
- Kindness is a radical commitment to acting in the interest of others without regard to your own interests.

The Bible testifies that kindness is a quality of God.

- *Hesed* is a Hebrew word that refers to God's kindness. It expressed God's commitment to keep his promises, look out for our needs, and provide for us.
- Jesus personifies kindness in his willingness to be interrupted by the needs of others and to lay down his life for our sins.

God's kindness is meant to inspire kindness in us, but there are two barriers to being kind:

- We are too busy
- We are too self-absorbed

The key to being kind is to see Christ in others and be Christ for others.

Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Tom said that kindness is a universal value. Why is that? What is the difference between the world's definition of kindness and the Bible's definition of kindness?
2. Who is the kindest person you have ever known? What made them kind? How do you think he/she cultivated kindness in his/her life?

3. Read the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37. What does this parable teach us about kindness? How do you see kindness displayed in the story?
4. Pastor Tom shared that there are two barriers to kindness: being too busy and being too self-absorbed.
 - a. Why do these two barriers make it impossible to be kind?
 - b. When do you encounter these two barriers? How can you overcome them?
 - c. Can you think of any other barriers to kindness?
5. What does it mean to see Christ in others and be Christ for others? How can you actually do that in your life?

Call to Action: Prepare yourself to be kind. Think of a situation you might run into and prepare yourself to respond with kindness. For example, if you know you might encounter a person experiencing homelessness, prepare a care package (granola bars, bottle of water, clean socks, hand sanitizer, etc.) and have it ready to go in your car so you are ready when the need arises.