



**Have Some Fruit—Kindness**  
**Galatians 5:22-23; Proverbs 3:3-4**  
**Luke 10:25-37**

**November 13, 2022**

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## **DAILY DEVOTION**

Find a rhythm in God's word this week! Follow this 7 day plan on your own or with your group!

<https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/9123-kindness-changes-everything>

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## **INSPIRATION**

"Virtue? A fig! 'Tis in ourselves that we are thus or thus. Our bodies are our gardens, to the which our wills are gardeners. So that if we will plant nettles or sow lettuce, set hyssop and weed up thyme, supply it with one gender of herbs or distract it with many, either to have it sterile with idleness or manured with industry, why the power and corrigible authority of this lies in our wills."

—Shakespeare's *Othello*

Iago is a Shakespeare character that can only be described as mean. He schemes, gossips, manipulates and lies. Iago contests the existence of virtue, kindness, and any moral character. In Iago's twisted world, virtue is a fig! There is no higher truth. Whether people are virtuous and nice, or mean and cruel, is only the result of their own will, and whether they choose to plant nettles or sow lettuce in their own lives.

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## **ICE BREAKER**

1. In this series, we have learned thus far that we need the Holy Spirit to give us love, joy, peace and patience. But when it comes to kindness, doesn't the "authority of this lie in our wills"? Or is kindness deeper than just being polite?
  2. As we look at our culture, including social media and conversations on politics, morality, faith, race and gender identity, why is it easy for people to get personal and be unkind, and even knowingly be mean? Has anyone's kindness, or unkindness and cruelty, ever affected you personally?
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## **DEEP DIVE**



**Read this out loud**

An excerpt from the message this week:

“Let love and kindness never leave you. Write them on the tablet of your heart.

The Holy Spirit will always lead you to be kind. Always.

Look at the result of being kind. You will gain favor with God and people. Every time we are kind God is proud of us. It is what he is hoping for from his kids. Just like you as a parent doing your best to teach your kid to be kind, and when they actually are kind that is a proud moment.”

**Read Galatians 5:22-23 and Proverbs 3:3-4 and then answer the following questions:**

3. Explain how a lifestyle of kindness, as opposed to a good deed here or there, is based on the spiritual condition of a person’s heart? Explain how being kind is interconnected with love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
4. As commanded by Proverbs 3:3-4, we are each required to “not let kindness and truth leave you” (NAS). What are the promised results of living with kindness? Why do you think kindness produces these results?
5. Are there connections between (i) kindness and forgiveness and (ii) unkindness and being judgmental? Explain.

**Read this out loud**

An excerpt from the message this week:

“Jesus asks, “Who was the neighbor to this man.” The one who showed him mercy. Today we would say, “The one who showed him kindness.” Kindness, it is sometimes inconvenient. It is going to disrupt your day. Kindness, generosity is a big part of kindness. This man paid money to make sure this man was taken care of.

Generous people who give without any strings attached are kind people. When you give to the church, it is an act of kindness.”

**Read Luke 10:25-37 and then answer the following questions:**

6. In the Jewish culture at the time of this passage, Samaritans were viewed by Jews with long-standing hostility and even hatred, and Jews would not associate with Samaritans (John. 4:9; Luke 9:51-56). Explain the Samaritan’s kindness to the man attacked by robbers, and his sacrifice of time and resources.
7. Jesus makes the hated Samaritan the hero. What valuable lesson is Jesus teaching in this parable about our responsibilities to be kind to others, even when it requires us to be unbiased and sacrificial?

**Additional Study**

If you have time during your Small Group or you want to study more about the message topic, read and consider the following passages:



- Ephesians 4:29-5:2
  - Psalm 63:3
  - Psalm 145:13
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### **NEXT STEPS**

8. Which character, Iago or the Good Samaritan, is more attractive to you? Which would you rather have as a neighbor, co-worker, friend or family member? What practical steps can you start this week to move from doing occasional good deeds to developing a heart and a lifestyle of kindness?
  9. If a hurt you suffered or something you are currently experiencing is leading you to exhibit unkindness, what steps can you take to identify and deal with this hurt? Can the StoneBridge staff, or Christian counseling, be a part of your healing?
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### **PRAYER**

1. Lord, we have all planted nettles in our lives that grew into unkind actions or attitudes. Your Holy Spirit can fill us and give us a heart of kindness. Give me a heart of kindness.
  2. Bless me with the good reputation, with you and others, that comes from my kindness.
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### **SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY**

Establish a regular rhythm of serving together! Below are some service opportunities.

- BENSON - Serve with us at ABIDE every 2nd Saturday.
- MILLARD - Serve with us at Heartland Hope every 4th Saturday.
- FREMONT - Serve with us at LifeHouse every 3rd Saturday.
- OMAHA - Serve with us at Open Door Mission every 4th Saturday.
- Or get to know your community, are there any needs/volunteer opportunities?