

## Day 6

# Kindness

**Silence (2 minutes)** Take some time to be quiet, to calm down, and to listen. What has God been teaching you? What are the next steps He wants you to take? How is your spirit doing?

**Scripture** *“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.’” Acts 4:8-10*

**Discussion** Peter and John were arrested for healing a man and talking to the crowd about Jesus’ resurrection. Many who heard the message believed, and Peter, John, and the healed man were brought before the religious leaders. Peter then spoke to them the words of this passage. The kindness of healing this man was accomplished by the name of Jesus, the Jewish Messiah, who was killed and raised from the dead. We have no idea what will happen as a result of our acts of kindness. Like Peter and John, maybe our kindness will lead to a miracle, or people being overjoyed, or an opportunity to talk about Jesus, or people turning to follow Jesus, or our being arrested, or being publicly challenged. We are called to obey by being kind and to *“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have”* (1 Peter 3:15). God knows what will happen and how He will use our kindness. Maybe He will reveal that to us; maybe not. Our God loves us and we can trust Him. *“We live by faith, not by sight”* (2 Corinthians 5:7).

**Application** Trusting in God’s kindness can often times lead us to places we might not foresee. Sometimes, showing kindness can cost us something - mercifully holding our tongue instead of firing back when put down by another, or even showing kindness to someone who has never shown us kindness. We can’t know what’s going on in the heart of those around us, and we might even be surprised by how others react to our kindness. Ask God to make you sensitive this week to situations where you can show kindness when it might not be expected.

**Prayer** Father, thank You for the example of Peter and John’s kindness to a person in need, their boldness to speak about Jesus, and their perseverance when challenged. Thank You for the good works that You have prepared in advance for me to do. Please help me grow in seeing people as You see them, to see the opportunities for me to be kind, and to walk by faith into those opportunities. I praise You that You are wise and powerful in all situations; that You are orchestrating all for Your glory. Help me to grow in trusting that. Thank You for the privilege of serving You. Amen.

**Silence (2 minutes)** Talk to God about what you are learning. What are your fears? Where are your hangups? Pray for direction.

**Scripture Memory** for the week: *“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”* Colossians 3:12

