

## Day 8

# 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** *"So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."* Galatians 6:10

**Discussion** Did you have siblings growing up? If you did, you probably fought from time to time and that's pretty normal. But if someone started messing with you or picking on you at school, a sibling would (hopefully) be the first to stick up for you, to protect you or rescue you from harm. That's what family does. There is a connection that runs deep even when you don't agree on everything.

God loves everyone and He expects us to love everyone, too. Even so, looking at scripture it seems that there is a special bond between brothers and sisters in Christ. We are family and a family takes care of one another. We should be kind to all, but we should go out of our way to be especially kind to those in our Church family. Why is this so important? Because God wants us to be a city on a hill, shining brightly in a dark world. Jesus said, *"let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven"* (Mt. 5:16). When we show kindness and unity of spirit within the Church, we testify that the love of God is more fulfilling than all that the world has to offer. When the Church goes out into the world with God's love, then the world experiences God for themselves. The opposite is unfortunately also true. When the Church is filled with chaos and dissension, then our testimony to the world will not shine brightly and it will be unappealing to people looking for hope.

Opportunities to show kindness and to do good are all around us, inside the church and outside the four walls. We just need to be available and present to see the needs, and then willing to step in and meet those needs. If we aren't available, if we aren't in community with others, then we won't be able to connect with people's needs. Let's commit to being involved and staying connected so that God can use us to be the hands and feet of Christ to one another.

**Application** Who in your church has a need? Do you know about the needs around you? How can you connect to people so that you can meet their needs? Serve in a ministry. Join a small group or a Bible study. Get involved in mentoring. Invite others over for coffee. Be creative and be a friend. When you build a relationship, you will start to hear about the needs around you. God has asked us to take His love to the world, and we can start by loving our own church family. Find one person in your church that you can bless this week. Maybe you can give them a gift card, send them a letter of encouragement, or invite them out for coffee? It is fun and fulfilling when we bless others!

**Prayer** God, I thank You for being a Father to me. Thank You for placing me into a church family and adopting me as Your child. Thank you for giving me brothers and sisters in Christ who care for me and can build me up. Help me to also be a blessing to those around me. Show me where there is a need and I ask that You would provide the resources needed for me to be a blessing. Thank You for your abundant provision. May I use it to show Your love to this world. I ask this in Jesus' name, 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

