

Day 5 *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 *“The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold.”* Acts 28:2

Discussion Paul was under arrest and being transported by ship to Rome. For two weeks the ship was in a violent storm, during which no one on board ate. Then, when they saw land and sailed toward a bay the ship became stuck on a reef and began to break up. Everyone on board swam ashore to the island, which was Malta. This passage adds that it was now raining and cold. The individuals from Malta, who were not Christians, stopped whatever tasks they were involved in to assist these very weary passengers. The islanders built a fire so they could get warm and welcomed everyone: the centurion, soldiers, sailors, prisoners. Whatever else was part of their welcome, Paul describes it as unusual kindness. The leading man of Malta received and entertained them for three days. Paul healed his father and then prayed for and healed many others who were ill and came to Paul. God used the initiative and kindness of unbelievers to orchestrate their contact with Paul, so that people could hear Paul pray, be healed, and certainly to hear about Jesus’ love, death, and resurrection. How is God using our kindness, and the kindness of those around us, to design situations in which we can show mercy to others and share about who Jesus is and our relationship with Him? Let us watch for how God is working through our kindness and weaving His will into the lives of those around us.

Application The kindness that we show others can be the strongest testimony we ever share. When we abide in God and intentionally show kindness to those around us, people are bound to notice that there is something different about our lives. Do you anticipate any situations this week where intentionally showing God’s kindness to others could open the door to sharing your faith with someone? Ask God to show you just how He wants you to share His kindness with those who don’t know Him yet this week!

Prayer Lord God, I praise You for Your power and wisdom. You coordinate people, events, and details so that people can be shown mercy and hear about Your love. You use everything, even the unusual kindness of unbelievers. I pray that I may be alert to how You are working, look for how You orchestrate events, and be faithful to the opportunities You give me to show mercy and talk about knowing You, Jesus. Thank You for Your kindness in allowing me to know You and be part of Your work in others. 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

