

Day 3 *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 *“Those who are kind benefit themselves, but the cruel bring ruin on themselves.”* Proverbs 11:17

Discussion We all like to be treated kindly and we often remember when we are. Particularly when we are in some sort of crisis, whether in our families, health, employment, finances, emotions, or our relationship with God, we tend to remember individuals who were kind to us. We may remember the specifics of that kindness for the rest of our lives. And we tend to remember that person with appreciation and grace, even when we know their weaknesses and faults. Out of gratitude for their kindness toward us, we may easily and eagerly speak and act in ways that benefit them. That is the way life is. Kindness often benefits the person who has been kind. When we are kind to others, especially out of love for God and them, we are benefited. We may be benefited through the speech and behavior of the person we were kind to. More valuable, we are benefited in how God is working to make us more like Him and in our relationship with Him, that God is pleased with our behavior.

Application Kindness obviously benefits others when we demonstrate it to others – but have you considered how kindness enriches your own faith? The more we abide in Christ, the closer we are to Him, and the more our faith matures. Showing kindness is a natural outpouring of a mature faith that is careful to lead a life pleasing to God. Is kindness something you find easy to offer those around you, or is a bit difficult? Take time each day this week before you enter any stressful situation to ask God to remind you of His kindness, and when you are reminded, show it to those around you.

Prayer Lord God, thank You for Your Word which shows me how life is. Thank You that being kind to others may benefit me in relationships with others. But even more, thank You that You are helping me to behave like You, to become more like You. Thank You that I belong to You, that I can know You and be known by You, and please You by being kind to 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

