



LifeGroup Discussion Questions

Overcoming the Barriers to Kindness | December 26, 2021

Summary

God's kindness breaks down our barriers to be kind to others.

Scripture

Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. He couldn't pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt.

But the man fell down before his master and begged him, "Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all." Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.

But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. "Be patient with me, and I will pay it," he pleaded. But his creditor wouldn't wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full. When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, "You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?" Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt. That's what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart. -Matthew 18:23-35 (NLT)

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. -Colossians 3:13 (NIV)

And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. -Colossians 3:14-15 (NIV)

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. -Colossians 3:16 (NIV)

Let's Start

Did the Christmas season give you extra opportunities to be kind? Share.

Gratitude and Prayer

How did God work in your life since the last time we were together? What is He doing through you as it relates to your Adopt 7?

Let's Talk

1. What keeps us from being kind?
2. What part of the parable of the unmerciful servant (Matthew 18) is most impactful to you?
3. Pastor Kyle talked about how we can break the cycle of irritation through forgiveness:
Forgive what they've done to you.
Forgive what they haven't done for you.
Forgive them for not meeting your needs.
Forgive them for not being you.

Which of these is most convicting to you?

4. To transform our relationships, Pastor Kyle gave the following guidelines to think about before we speak:
Is this loving? Is what I am about to say for the good for the other person?
Is this peaceful? Will what I say build a bridge?
Is this thankful? Are my words filled with gratitude?

How can we make these guidelines a permanent part of our mindset?
5. Do you know someone whose words are filled with love, peace and thankfulness? What is it like to be around him or her?
6. How has the "A Different Kind of Christmas" series impacted you?

Let's Act

What acts of kindness will you do this week?
