



LifeGroup Discussion Questions

The Internal Enemies of Kindness | December 19, 2021

Summary

Knowing and identifying the internal saboteurs of your soul will help you defeat their efforts, and allow you to grow and experience the power of being kind.

Scripture

The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." -Exodus 34:6-7 (ESV)

This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus. -Matthew 1:18-25 (NLT)

Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. -1 Corinthians 13:7 (NLT)

But--When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. -Titus 3:4-5 (NLT)

Let's Start

Did you have any opportunities to be kind in a difficult situation this week? If so, how?

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. Share about someone you know who is good at showing kindness to others.
2. What should be our motivation to be kind?
3. When have you been most filled with kindness? Why?
4. Pastor Dale talked about five things which can sabotage our plans to be kind.
 - "It's too hard"
 - "I'm too exasperated!"
 - Sarcasm and muttering!
 - Catastrophizing
 - Suspicion

Have you experienced any of these "saboteurs" in your life? How?

5. Why is Joseph a good example of kindness?
6. In addition to kindness, what other positive character qualities did Joseph possess?
7. Pastor Dale shared how Joseph defeated the saboteurs of kindness in his life:
 - Joseph always sought to do what was right in the right way.
 - Joseph unquestionably obeyed the Lord because he trusted in the sovereignty of God.
 - Joseph always put the needs of others first no matter how it inconvenienced his life.

Have you been able to use these principles in your life? How?

Let's Act

Do an act of "inconvenient" kindness this week.
