



SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 1 October 6, 2024
“The Power of Kindness”



OPENING PRAYER

Lord, give us comfort as we navigate a world filled with hatred and division. Show us how we might grow in kindness and love; and give us bravery to share it with our neighbors. Thank you for the blessings you have given to us, and make us be a blessing to the world around us. It is in the name of your Son, who showed us true love, that we ask this. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Matthew 7:12 (NIV)

“In everything do to others as you would have them do to you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

Micah 6:8 (NRSV)

He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

Proverbs 20:28 (CEB)

Kindness and faithfulness protect the king; he supports his throne by kindness.

Proverbs 21:21 (CEB)

Those who pursue righteousness and kindness will find life, righteousness, and honor.

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INTRODUCTION

If we believe the other party is wrong about some really critical issues, are we simply to be nice and not address these serious differences? No - we should stand up for what we believe in. But too often we do that with rancor, in a way that merely pushes people away from what we believe. That only further polarizes us. Micah 6:8 offers us a better way.

Our mission, as Jesus followers, is to practice kindness toward other people in tangible ways. Waiting for our leaders to "model kindness and understanding with people they disagree" may not happen if "we the people," the people who elect them, are not willing to do this first. Kindness might just be the key to saving American democracy.

QUESTIONS

1. What is your hope and dream for our country?
2. How have the divisions and disagreements in our society impacted you personally?
3. When has listening to another point of view broadened your understanding of a topic?
4. How would you define "kindness"?
5. What are times in your life in which circumstances made being kind to others complex and challenging?
6. In the sermon, Pastor Eric said "kindness might just be the key to saving American democracy." Do you agree or disagree? Why?

FINAL APPLICATION

Do an act of kindness for someone this week.