

Kindness is showing others they are valuable by how you treat them.

DAY 1

Read Luke 10:36-37, NIV

Jesus often told stories to help His audience understand His teaching. When He told this story, His audience knew that Jews and Samaritans were NOT friends. In fact, Jews would travel out of their way to avoid going through Samaria.

In Jesus' story, it was a Samaritan who stopped and helped the hurt man, not a fellow Jew. The Samaritan showed kindness, even though Jews and Samaritans were very different from one another. Jesus ended His story by saying, "Go and do as he did." Jesus was reminding us that kindness is for everyone, even the people you'd say are nothing like you.

Like a Good Neighbor

Grab a piece of paper and draw a picture of this story in 2024. Read Luke 10:25-37 if you need to. Somewhere on the page, write, "Be kind to people who are different from you." Share this picture with your family and talk about ways you followed Jesus' words to "go and do as he did" and showed kindness to others this week.

DAY 2

Read Proverbs 11:17, NIV

What happens when you choose kindness? What happens when you choose meanness instead? This verse makes it pretty clear. Kindness leads to good things. Meanness leads to trouble.

Think about it: When someone hurts you and you hurt them back, the problems just get worse and worse. Meanness leads to more meanness, but when you choose kindness, it benefits you. It's GOOD for you. Even if the person who hurts you doesn't respond in a kind way back, when YOU choose kindness, you always walk away on the winning side.

Time For Kindness

Grab a piece of paper and fold it into four sections. Inside each section, write down the following times of day—breakfast, lunch, dinner, and bedtime. Beside each time of day, write down the names of one or two people you usually see during those times. Then draw a picture or write down a way you can show kindness instead of meanness to the people you've listed at those times of day.

DAY 3

Read Hebrews 13:2, NIV

Who is your favorite sports team? In the box, write out your favorite chant, cheer, or tagline to represent that team. Feel free to use team colors if you'd like.

Who is your favorite team's biggest rival?

What if for the next month, someone from that team showed up each morning at your front door, decked out in their team colors to sing their fight song? How would you respond? Would you invite them in for breakfast? Would you stop and tap your feet along to their catchy tune?

God wants you to show kindness to everyone. When you welcome and love and care for people who are different from you, even people who root for the "wrong" team, you're acting just like Jesus would! Kindness shouldn't be something we only offer some people. Kindness is for everyone, no matter who they root for!

DAY 4

Read Matthew 5:43-44, NIV

When you talk to God, what do you talk about? After you thank God for your food... or your family... for what you want and need... what do you REALLY say to God?

Do you pray for other people?
Do you pray for those who HURT you?
Do you stop to ask God to bless them? To protect them? To keep them safe?

Loving your enemies is really hard, but that's what Jesus tells us to do. A good way to start to be kind to others who aren't kind to you is to pray for them. Ask God to change your heart towards them, to help forgive them for the wrong they've done, and choose to respond with kindness.

Don't think you can? There's no better time than right now. Think about someone who hurt you this week. Bow your head and take some time to pray for that person, right now.

Be kind to people who are different from you.

