



MIRACLE GROW - Week 5 KINDNESS: Discussion Guide

TOUCH BASE - 10 Minutes

- 1) What are some common habits you have? Do you have any habits you wish you didn't have?

- 2) What insights did you gain from this week's reading in the book or sermon?

TAKE IT IN - 10 Minutes

Watch the video for week 5 entitled "Kindness" on the DVD or at tlc.org/miraclegrow.

Video Notes

The essence of _____ is thoughtfulness for other people above yourself.

The Hebrew term _____ is translated love, faithfulness, loyalty, mercy, loving-kindness, kindness.

TALK IT OUT - 25 to 35 Minutes

- 1) How would you define Kindness?

- 2) Have you personally experienced acts of kindness that impacted your life in powerful ways? Share your stories with each other.

- 3) List some of the ways you have experienced the Lord's kindness in your life.
 - a) What effect does that have on your ability to show kindness to others?

4) What does kindness look like in practice? Is there any difference between kindness as a fruit of the spirit and just ordinary being nice?

5) What Bible passages encourage people to show kindness to one another?

6) Read 1 Cor 13:4 (NIV)

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

a) Can you be loving without being patient or kind? How are patience and kindness paramount to loving well?

b) When is it most challenging for you to show kindness?

7) Read Psalm 136:1-9 (NIV) Remembering that “His faithful love endures forever” is translated from the word **hesed** which also could be translated “Loving Kindness”.

a) What do you learn about God’s character from these verses? How does this affect your relationship with him and others?

8) Read Micah 6:8 and Zechariah 7:9

*He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to **love kindness (hesed)**, [and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8 (ESV)*

*“This is what the Lord Almighty said: ‘Administer true justice; **show mercy (hesed)** and compassion to one another. Zechariah 7:9 (NIV)*

a) According to these verses, how should we act as followers of Christ? Why is it important to administer justice and mercy/loving kindness together? How is God an example of this?

TAKE IT WITH YOU - 10 Minutes

1) On page 93 in the book, Chris Wright says that kindness as a fruit of the Spirit does not come naturally but is a spiritual process that needs to be cultivated. It needs to become a habit in our life. What is one step you can take this week to cultivate the habit of kindness in your life?

2) Who do you need to demonstrate the fruit of kindness to this week?

CLOSE IN PRAYER