

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

WEEK: OCTOBER 18-24, 2025

SERIES INFO

Rotten: In a world of fake smiles, quick tempers, and shallow love, we're all producing something. Every word, every choice, every action plants something in someone's heart—either life-giving or toxic. But the Spirit grows something different: love when hate comes easy, joy when life feels heavy, peace in the chaos, patience when you're pushed, kindness in a cruel world, goodness when nobody's watching, faithfulness when others walk away, gentleness in a culture that shouts, and self-control when everything says give in. That's not surface-level. That's transformation. And it might be the very thing that marks the difference between being ruled by the mess around you and being fueled by something greater.

PERSONAL FUN FACTS

What's one act of kindness someone showed you that you still remember- and why do you think it stuck with you?

TAKEAWAYS

What were the greatest "takeaways" you had from the message this week about the Holy Spirit producing the fruit of kindness within you?

DISCUSSION

Niceness or Kindness?

Scripture: Titus 3:3-7, Ephesians 4:32

As we learned this week, kindness is very different than just being nice or being polite. If our goal is to "try to be nicer," after reading these texts, then we have missed the point of what biblical kindness- the kindness that Jesus modeled is all about. Being nice is often about having good manners or providing creature comforts for someone. But spiritual and biblical kindness is about meeting real needs. It is embracing and embodying the gospel by showing "love in action" that restores what is broken in people. Kindness is "restorative love" that flows from the Holy Spirit through us to others.

- According to the Titus passage above, God's kindness is revealed in the Person of Jesus. How does this shape your understanding of what true kindness looks like?

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- How can we specifically practice restorative kindness this week—an intentional act that helps someone experience healing and restoration, not just about your being polite or nice? (Note: this would be different than just a “random act of kindness.” Think about how forgiveness might connect to kindness)

Costly Kindness

Scripture: Luke 10:30-37

Kindness as a spiritual fruit is closely related to love. We might recall from the very early part of our study of the spiritual fruit, that love is the soil in which all fruit grow. But sometimes, love gets messy. Kindness, as a fruit of the Spirit, isn't some kind of sentimental or shallow expression of showing respect- although that is a “nice” thing to do. Kindness is often costly, inconvenient, and messy because it mirrors the heart of God, who showed us His kindness through the sacrificial love of Jesus in our most “messy moments.” Spiritual kindness steps into people's pain, and when we do, it can be uncomfortable, inconvenient, and sacrificial. It is here where we are called to compassion over comfort.

- What about the Good Samaritan illustrated true, spiritual kindness?
 - What kept the priest and the Levite from showing spiritual kindness?
- How does this story challenge our thinking that kindness must in some way feel rewarding or appreciated?
- How is compassion different from pity or sympathy? (relate your answer to this story)

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God's Kindness Flowing Through Us Scripture: Ephesians 2:6-10

God uses kindness as a visible expression of His unseen grace. Kindness isn't something we just receive, but it is something that is meant to flow through us to the world. At that point, kindness becomes missional in the sense that we are often the ones by which others know God's redemptive kindness as it flows through us to others. Because God showed kindness to us as those who have found forgiveness and redemption, we become living evidence of His kindness that is inexhaustible—it never runs out.

- Have you ever thought of your life being a “display case” of God's kindness? How might that change your mindset to see yourself as the evidence of God's kindness to the point that others might catch a glimpse of His character?
- In what ways have you been trying to “produce” kindness rather than just receiving it?

APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT

- In what relationships or environments (home, work, church, community) is God calling you to show **restorative kindness** right now?
- How might you keep the channel of kindness open in your life this week? What steps or spiritual practices will help you to do this?

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for showing us kindness when we least deserved it. Teach us to be kind as You are kind—not merely nice or polite, but restoring, healing, and compassionate. Fill us with Your Spirit so our kindness reflects Your heart. Amen.