

SMALL GROUPS

Leader Conversation Guide - Fruit of the Spirit - Kindness

Main Idea:

Kindness isn't a personality upgrade—it's a **heart transformation** produced by the Holy Spirit. In a hard, divided culture, biblical kindness becomes evidence that Jesus is alive in us. As God softens our hearts, kindness “pops out” as fruit: it benefits others and even refreshes our own souls.

Make It Practical:

- **Fruit, not force.** You don't “learn” kindness; you become kind as you abide in Jesus.
- **Kindness is a heart issue.** A tender heart (not a hard one) overflows in mercy, forgiveness, and useful love.
- **Remove the four “UNs.”** Unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving hearts choke kindness.
- **Gratitude fuels kindness.** The more you remember God's kindness to you, the kinder you'll be to others.
- **Holiness clears the pipeline.** Hidden compromise hardens the heart; repentance re-tenders it.
- **Love chooses people.** We can disagree without demeaning—kindness actively seeks others' good.
- **Forgiveness frees you.** Releasing offenses unlocks compassion and keeps bitterness from poisoning fruit.

Key Scripture:

Galatians 5:22–23 NIV

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, **kindness**, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

Proverbs 11:17 NIV

“Those who are kind benefit themselves, but the cruel bring ruin on themselves.”

Ephesians 4:32 NKJV

“And **be kind** to one another, tenderhearted, **forgiving** one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

2 Timothy 3:1–5 NLT (selected)

“...in the last days there will be very difficult times... people will be **unthankful, unloving... cruel...** They will act religious, but reject the power that could make them godly.”

Titus 3:4–5 NIV

“When the **kindness** and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us... because of his mercy.”

Proverbs 21:21 ESV

“Whoever pursues righteousness and **kindness** will find life, righteousness, and honor.”

Colossians 3:12–13 NIV

“...clothe yourselves with compassion, **kindness**, humility, gentleness and patience... **Forgive** as the Lord forgave you.”

Talk About It:

1. What line or scripture most convicted or encouraged you about kindness? Why?
2. Of the four “UNs” (unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving), which one tries to harden your heart most right now?
3. Where have you recently seen God’s **kindness** toward you? How could gratitude change your tone this week?
4. How does hidden compromise (even “a little”) affect your ability to be kind? What does repentance look like practically?
5. What’s a concrete way you can **seek to do good** (1 Thes. 5:15) to “one another and everybody” this week?
6. Is there someone you need to **forgive** so kindness can flow again? What first step will you take?

7. As a group, how can we model kindness in our church and city during this season (Legacy offering, OCC packing party, everyday acts)?

Prayer:

Father, thank You for Your saving **kindness** toward us. Tenderize our hearts again. Uproot ingratitude, compromise, coldness, and unforgiveness. Fill us with Your Spirit so kindness naturally overflows—in our homes, church, and community. Make us useful, compassionate, and ready to forgive as You forgave us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Leader Tips:

- **Model gratitude.** Start group by sharing one recent evidence of God's kindness; invite quick round-robin responses.
- **Create space for repentance.** A short, quiet moment before prayer helps soften hearts and "clear the pipeline."
- **Aim for specific action.** Challenge each person: pick one intentional kindness to do (and report back next week).
- **Keep it others-focused.** Highlight opportunities (Legacy offering 11/9, OCC packing 11/16, "kindness cards") as shared practices.
- **Guard tone.** If conversation drifts to culture wars, re-center on Jesus' call to **seek to do good** to everyone.