



Kind-Hearted

April 2024

We live in a world where “random acts of kindness” pepper our feeds and give us all the feels. We hear about paying for the order of the car behind you in the drive-thru or leaving extravagant tips for a server in a restaurant. Or likely you’ve been the recipient of a fellow shopper “paying it forward” and sharing a free cart at Aldi. These fleeting moments are heartwarming, to be sure. And let’s face it, it’s easy to be kind to strangers.

But there’s nothing random about kindness in the Bible. God’s kindness toward us is intentional and purposeful. We were undeserving and unworthy. We hadn’t done anything to earn it. Yet Titus 3 tells us that “when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy.” Titus 3:4

How do we reflect the kindness of Christ in this generation? After all, kindness isn’t just some periphery trait to live out if we feel like it. Among the things that older women are told to teach younger women in Titus 2 is the mandate to be kind (vs. 3-5). This doesn’t simply mean

to be nice to someone’s face and then turn around and be unkind behind their back. It’s not a surface-level sort of kind when it feels good and doesn’t cost anything. It’s not simply picking and choosing and being kind to those who haven’t caused pain and heartache.

Among other things, 1 Corinthians 13 tells us that love is kind. The truth is, we can go about our duties each day, checking things off, serving our families, showing up for a friend, volunteering and giving of our time. These are good things, but so easily we can become consumed with the checklist and the schedule and the doing that we develop a martyr syndrome. Rather than truly loving and showing kindness to the people before us, we begin to resent them. “Don’t you see all I’m doing for you?!”

But the kindness and goodness of the Bible flows from the love of Christ in our hearts. It’s a heart that selflessly, intentionally loves and does what is best for people. It gives. It’s tender-heartedness. Forgiveness. Mercy. Honor. Compassion. Patience. Affection. Sympathy. As we grow in these traits, we will become more like Christ, and sub-

sequently more kind. Do our loved ones see our activity and our busy service only, or do they feel the heart and the love behind it? Do they talk about how you make them feel? The time you’re willing to give? The way you’re willing to slow down and show up and listen?

Kindness isn’t random. For the believer, the kindness we pour out reflects the immeasurable, undeserved kindness of Christ. It’s different. It’s counter-cultural. And it shows this world Jesus.

“Show kindness in your homes, at church, and at work. Show kindness when you rise up in the morning and when you come to the end of your day. Show kindness because God is kind and has been so kind to you.”

Lisa Hughes

Want to be part of our Prayer Team?

Next month we're launching into a new year-long venture of praying scripture together. The theme will be "Incomparable," focusing on the work and words of Jesus Christ.

If you're interested in being part of our prayer team and receiving a small list of eFree women for whom to pray, please contact Nikki MacDonald at nikki.m@e-free-family.com



Arise Café:

We invite women of every age, stage, and season to join

us for an encouraging morning of fellowship, community building, worship, and testimonies on Saturday morning, May 4 at 8am. Many women have told us that this gathering has been a tool that God has used to help them feel more connected and make new friends! Bring a friend and a dish to share!



Personalize & Pray These Scriptures

Proverbs 31:26

She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

Job 6:14

He who withholds kindness from a friend forsakes the fear of the Almighty.

Zechariah 7:9

Thus says the LORD of hosts, Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another,

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Titus 3:3-5

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

A Prayer & Heart Response for

God, I see what You've called me to do, and I admit, it's so different from this world. Yet I long to reflect You and live out the gospel in this generation. Help me to abide in You; to be conformed and transformed to Your image. I long for Your love and kindness to flow through me to others: not just those who are easy, not just those who reciprocate. I want to be an instrument of grace and kindness, that their eyes might be directed to You alone.

Women's Ministries

"Women's Ministries seeks to support the church's mission and vision to multiply disciples of Jesus Christ. Committed to God's Word as our authority, we're passionate about creating a culture in which Titus 2 relationships (older teaching younger) can thrive by providing opportunities, resources, and support for women to connect with one another and the Lord Jesus Christ."

He Leads Me

A 3-week study of Psalm 23

April 3, 10, & 17 at 6:30pm in the Fireside Room

Led by Nikki MacDonald

Order your book at thedailygraceco.com

Note: the women's edition is currently unavailable. Order the men's edition. The content is the same.

Momville

- A Christ-centered community for moms of littles
- Meets at 9:30am on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month in the Commons
- Childcare provided

Women's Prayer Fellowship

Women's Prayer Fellowship is a group of women who meet each week to pray for our nation, church, families, and each other. Women of all ages are invited to come together to cry out to God for revival. They meet each Wednesday morning at 10:45 in the Fireside Room (lower level).