

Loving the Way Jesus Loves

Part 2: Loving-kindness *Life Group Guide*

“Love is kind.” – 1 Cor. 13:4

Read First Corinthians 13:4-8

1. How do you think today’s culture would define love?
2. Read the following verses from 1 John and discuss what they teach us about love.
 - 1 John 3:14-18
 - 1 John 4:7-12
 - Is love mainly about feelings or actions?

Note: In the KJV Bible you find the word **‘lovingkindness’**. It’s a beautiful word. The word attempts to express the rich OT word for God’s covenant love. Some translations translate this word consistently as *steadfast love*. Others choose to translate it differently in different places (e.g. *mercy, unfailing love, faithful love, unending love, compassion, loving-kindness* or simply *love*) to help express the full meaning. This word loving-kindness helps capture how vital kindness is to love.

3. This connection between love & kindness is seen in the NT not only in 1 Corinthians but in other places as well. One such place is Titus 3:3-8: Read Titus 3:3-8. What are some of the characteristics of God’s kindness expressed to us?
4. *Kindness is...*
 - *“active goodness on behalf of others.”* - Gordon Fee
 - *“loves readiness to enhance the life of another person.”* - Lewis Smedes
 - *“love in action for the spiritual benefit of others.”* - Phil Ryken

Discuss the above definitions of kindness & then ask the question: In what ways can we show kindness to people & how has God equipped each of us to do so?

5. Turn to Luke 10:25-37 & read the story of the Good Samaritan.
 - What do we learn about what it looks like to show true Christ-like kindness to others?
 - What parallels can you find between the kindness of the Samaritan & the kindness of God?
 - When we encounter a needy person. Do we act more like the Good Samaritan or like the priest & Levite? What motivates or hinders us from showing kindness to others?

Personal response: *Think of someone who may not seem to deserve your love—someone to whom you could show Christ-like kindness. Why not make a decision to demonstrate kindness to them this week in the name of Christ?*