

Alley Rundown—February 7th, 2021

Today's Bible Story: Humble and Kind (God Was Kind to Us) • *Ephesians 4:32*

Today's Key Question: What does kindness look like?

Today's Bottom Line: Be kind to others because God is kind to you.

Monthly Memory Verse: Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. (Colossians 3:12 NIV)

CG: Dude Perfect Filler Videos

"Hey everybody! Great to see you. I'm so excited to begin another month together here in The Alley. Man, you all sounded so good worshipping our Good Father God. What a way to begin a new month!

"All this month, we are going to be learning about kindness. My guess is that is not really a new word to you. Probably a couple times a week, I see a car with a bumper sticker or a person wearing a shirt that says 'Be Kind' or something else about kindness. When siblings start fighting in the grocery store, you might hear a parent saying, 'Be kind!' But what even is kindness? What does it mean to be kind? Is it the same as being nice? Or is there more to it?

"That is what we get to explore this month. We can all agree that 2020 was nothing like we expected it. From sheltering at home to social distancing to wearing masks in the grocery store and school, life as we knew it changed. Along with all of those changes came opportunities to show kindness throughout the world. How many of you would say that you saw people showing kindness to one another, even when things last year were REALLY hard?" *(allow response and even a few appropriate stories/examples)*

"I have a question for you all. Why does kindness sometimes feel extreme? Shouldn't it feel normal? Shouldn't going out of our way for others be the natural thing? We know kindness when we see it, right? Even when it is just something happening right in front of us like a friend at school sharing a pencil with you. Somebody does something for someone else or even us and maybe we think, 'That was kind!'. We know it when we see it. But how come we don't always make the choice to show kindness to others? What can we do to change that?"

"Let's dive more deeply into this idea of kindness and jump to the New Testament of our Bible. The New Testament writers shared about the life of Jesus and what happened as they tried to follow Him and start the church. Some of the New Testament books started out as letters. Today, we get to look at one of those letters written by a leader named Paul. He wrote this letter to Christians living in a city called Ephesus. Now, you might remember hearing about Paul's travels around the ancient world, sharing the good news about Jesus. Throughout his journeys, many people were introduced to Jesus and became His followers—even some people who had previously been very far away from God. But that's the beauty of God's love—it's for everyone!"

"Well, Paul would often continue to write to many of these new Christians living in different cities to encourage and challenge them as they learned to live this new, wonderful life with God. Here in a letter called Ephesians, we find Paul challenging these new followers of Jesus about kindness. Let's check it out!"

Open the Bible to Ephesians 4:32 (NIV) and read.

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

“Now this verse is pretty straightforward. Be kind, but there is more for us to dive into. Let’s take a look at this week’s Episode for more!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 13:00)

“It is easy to think that kindness is something exceptional or something so special that only the best of the best are really any good at it. But hopefully what you saw in these passages that we looked at together is that kindness looks a whole lot more natural for those who follow Jesus, or at least it should! We can begin to replace old and hurtful responses with responses that are more like God’s response to us—the kind way. It may be at home or school or at a friend’s house. It may be with a buddy or an enemy. It may be toward a teacher or a coach or a parent. It might be because of a brother or sister. There are so many ways that we can show kindness.”

“Today as we finish our talk, think about this question:

SLIDE: Key Question

“What does kindness look like? *(allow response)* In other words, when have you seen it? What does it look like? How is it different than just being nice? How can you start to define kindness by what we have learned together today? You’ll have a chance to brainstorm all sorts of ways to show kindness with your small group. Before you head out, let’s pray and thank God for showing kindness to us, for sending Jesus, and forgiving us. Let’s pray.”

Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, dismiss kids to All Together Activities.

CG: Humble and Kind EDIT (Runtime 4:00)

Video can play as you prepare for All Together Activities