

Lesson 2: The Truth About Being Nice

Goals

1. To remind students that their behavior is a reflection of their heart
2. To illustrate the Golden Rule
3. To motivate students to be nice to people no matter what obstacles they may face in doing so

Scripture Memorization

Ephesians 4:32

OPENING PRAYER

GROUP BUILDING

- How did that act of kindness impact your day, week, or life?

GETTING STARTED

- What makes a person nice?
- Have you ever met someone who was mean or rude?
- Why do you think people don't like being around people who are mean?

Today we're going to talk about the truth about being nice. Nobody likes mean people, but did you know the Bible is clear that we should be nice, kind, and loving. Sometimes we excuse not being nice for different reasons: we're mad, someone deserves to be told off, someone treated us poorly, we feel pressure to fit in, etc. But God calls us to a kindness that is not situational.

DIGGING IN

Let's start by reading some Scriptures about niceness. First is a verse we should all memorize.

Read Ephesians 4:32

Discussion Questions:

1. According to this verse, how should we treat one another?
2. Based on this verse, should we hold grudges, be rude, or not care about people?
3. Why are we called to live like this?

There are more examples of this being our motivation in Scripture.

Read 1 John 4:7-11

The point is plain; we should love one another because God loved us first. Love is talked about over 500 times in Scripture. It's talked about the

most concerning God's Love for man. But the love we should have for one another is common usage as well.

Read John 13:34-35

Discussion Questions:

1. What does this verse say about how we should treat one another?
2. What does it mean to treat someone in a loving way?
3. What does this verse say will happen if we treat one another that way?
4. When Christians fight, treat each other poorly, or are rude, what do you think people think? Is it possible they assume we don't belong to Jesus?

We mentioned earlier that sometimes we justify being mean or rude. What are some reasons why we act unkind or unloving?

Read Ephesians 4:2-3

Discussion Questions:

1. Does this verse answer the question of whether we should put up with people who are hard to love? How so?

It's obvious: there are tons of passages on kindness, niceness, and love. It is not an optional teaching. It's not something that we pick and choose when to do, either. We should love one another. We should be kind to those who are hard to be kind to. We should not be rude or inconsiderate.

MAKING IT REAL

There's one more passage that we should hit on that you all know.

Read Matthew 7:12.

This is the Golden Rule. Here, Jesus says it is the summarization of all the Law and the Prophets.

I want to challenge each of you to be nice. If you can't say something nice, don't say it. If you can't be nice, at least don't be mean. If someone makes you mad, don't return anger for anger. Don't consider yourself responsible for revenge for a friend. It almost sounds too simplistic but just be nice.

This week, I want you to pay close attention to your niceness. If you find yourself being rude, mean, vengeful, inconsiderate, or unkind, stop and pray that God will help you show kindness. Let people know you belong to Jesus because you are kind to everyone with whom you come into contact.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some ways kindness is shown?
2. What are some practical ways to be nice?

Do something nice this week. Pray that God will help you to show kindness.

Let's pray right now that we all will do that.

CLOSING PRAYER