

Priorities of Faith

DAY 7 — THE VALUE OF BEING KIND

“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you love each other.” (John 13:35)

The Most Important Part of Your Character

If you could be remembered for only one part of your character, what would it be? If just one part of your character showed what you believe and what you value most, what would you choose? Many answers are possible, but one important part of God’s character should be reflected in all of our lives. In Titus 3:4, the Bible tells us that the kindness of God, our Savior, was made known to us when His love saved us.

Kindness! The kindness of God. Kindness can be understood by all people, old and young, rich and poor, male and female, Deaf or blind. Kindness knows no language barrier. Everyone loves kindness, like music, a friendly smile, help when we need it, support when we feel hopeless, and giving encouragement—all do a lot to make hard times of our lives easier. Kindness does not cost you much, but it can make a big change in the lives of people who experience it, and in the lives of people who share it. With kindness everyone wins.

A Lovable Christian

Jesus knew that the kindness of His followers would be a powerful example of their faith. A short time before Jesus’ betrayal and death, after washing His disciples’ feet, Jesus told them, “By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you love each other” (John 13:35). Ellen White says the same thing: “The most powerful reason supporting the gospel is a loving and lovable Christian” (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 470). When we are kind to other people, our love can reach hearts in special ways beyond the limits of religion, skin color, and social class. I believe God created us with the desire to receive and share kindness, and this reflects the character of the God we love. In Jonah 4:2 we read that God is gracious, tender and kind, slow to anger, and rich in lovingkindness. The theme of God’s lovingkindness fills the entire Bible, Old and New Testament.

When we are kind, we bring comfort and joy not only to humans, but also to God’s heart. Kindness does not focus on the bad things around us or on other people. Instead, kindness reflects God’s character and the way He is with us. Let us focus on what matters in life and be known as people who are kind to all.

Let’s pray together.

Prayer Time (30–45 Minutes)

All prayer groups have different ways of praying together. We want you to spend the next 30-45 minutes praying together, however the Holy Spirit leads you. Short informal prayers (1-3 sentences) are good. This way, more people can pray many times. Below are some examples of praying with Bible verses based on the theme. You may also pray through other Bible verses and include other topics in your prayer time. See the Leader's Guide and World Church Prayer Requests for other prayer ideas.

Praying God's Word — John 13:35

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you love each other."

"By This All People Will Know That You Are My Disciples"

God, how often is our mission outreach not balanced? We focus on theology, prophecy, religious beliefs, lifestyle, etc.. And while these things are good, true, and important, You clearly preached and, most importantly, lived the example that love is the strongest way to show what is true. Help us to live love and kindness together with truth, as You have forever. Amen.

"If You Love Each Other"

Dear Jesus, forgive us for our selfish love. We truly can not understand Your love shown on Calvary. Forgive us for how we think about each other, what we say about each other, and how we treat each other. Please, Lord, fill us with Your divine love. Help us to represent Your love and kindness. Make people see Jesus in us and in how we treat each other. Bring the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) in our lives, we pray. Amen.

More Prayer Suggestions

Thanks and Praise: Give thanks for specific blessings and praise God for His goodness.

Confession: Take a few minutes for private confession and thank God for His forgiveness.

Guidance: Ask God to give wisdom for today's challenges and decisions.

Our Church: Pray for local and world church needs (see separate sheet with requests).

Local Requests: Pray for needs of church members, family, and neighbors.

Listen and Respond: Take time to listen for God's voice and respond in praise or song.

Song Suggestions

SDA Hymnal: Lord, I Want to Be a Christian (#319); So Send I You (#578); 'Tis Love That Makes Us Happy (#579)

Other Songs: Make Me a Servant; We Are His Hands; Micah 6:8 Scripture Song