



Diving Deeper: A Gather Group Discussion Guide or Personal Study Guide



Unusual Kindness

Introduction: Paul, along with all the men on the ship, arrive to an unknown location. They are greeted by the Native people who demonstrate unusual kindness by caring for them and providing them with needed supplies. Paul is able to return the favor and show kindness to them through the healing of those who were sick. .

Text: Acts 28

Discussion:

1. Icebreaker: Have you ever been surprised by someone who showed you kindness? Who were they and why were you surprised that they showed kindness?
2. Paul has been mistreated throughout his ministry by his own people. Now, he is shown kindness by a group of foreigners to him and the crew. Why must we never cast judgment on a people before getting to know them?
3. Kindness is not acceptance. You can be kind to a person and disagree with them. Why does our culture want to make people think that if you disagree with a person's belief you are being "unkind"?
4. The Native people did not take advantage of the vulnerability of the crew. Instead, they provided food and shelter for them. We have witnessed, in America, protests leading to violence in the street where people (who live in the city) take advantage of the situation and steal shoes, televisions, etc. Why should you never take advantage of others in the midst of their weakness? What does that say about a society that is willing to steal from the vulnerable?
5. Why did the Native people think that Paul was a murderer?
6. Our culture likes to use the word Karma—similar to how the Native's thought. This is not a Christian belief. Why is it incorrect to interpret every bad thing that happens to someone as divine retribution? (See Luke 13:1-5, John 9:1-3).
7. Read Romans 12:9-13, Hebrews 13:1-2, Matt. 25:31-40. Write/Discuss the importance of showing kindness and doing good for the sake of Christ? What does the passage in Matthew tell you about the impact that our deeds make?
8. Read Eph. 4:32. Why are we to be kind according to this verse?
9. Read Titus 3:3-7. The Lord demonstrated the ultimate kindness towards us. The Bible states that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. His love and grace is truly amazing. Christians should be the most compassionate and kindhearted people due to the fact that Jesus was so kind towards us. How can you show the kindness of the Lord this week?

Think About it:

Christians should be the most gracious people in the world. We have been forgiven from our sin, not because of who we are, but simply because of Christ. His loving kindness was poured out on us through the Holy Spirit. Why does it appear that some Christians are so hateful, mean spirited, and spiteful? Why does it appear that Christians can't even get along with other Christians? This should never be. Christians should lead the way in kindness for the glory of Christ.

Moving Forward:

How will you show unusual kindness this week? How will you show kindness to those you do not like, do not agree with, or those who are different from you? Ask the Lord to open your eyes to those around you and when you have the opportunity to be kind . . . be kind.