

Gathering GIFTS

ave you started your Christmas shopping yet? Some of us love to find the perfect gift for each person on our list. Others find this process difficult and overwhelming! Regardless, giving gifts to those we love is something important to us.

I wonder, this year, if we could accept the challenge of gathering gifts of kindness to share with people around us – even those we don't know? What if we gave a gift of "paying it forward" when we checked out at the coffee shop? What if we practiced kindness by offering to watch a friends' children while they go 'Santa' shopping?

Kindness is a gift that touches hearts and encourages those who receive it! It's impossible to know what someone is going through in their life so even the tiniest act of kindness can turn their entire day around. Brightening someone's day with kindness is the loveliest gift to experience.

Scripture tells us: "Since you have been chosen by God who has given you this new kind of life, and because of his deep love and concern for you, you should practice tenderhearted mercy and kindness to others. Don't worry about making a good impression on them, but be ready to suffer quietly and patiently." Colossians 3:12 (TLB)

What would this week look like if you intentionally practiced kindness to those that come your way? Instead of material gifts, share kindness and watch lives be encouraged and transformed!

After sharing the Scripture, use at least three of the questions below with your group:

- When have you been the recipient of the kindness of a stranger? Of someone you know?
- Sharing kindness is a gift to someone and to yourself how does sharing kindness make you feel?
- Colossians tells us to practice tenderhearted mercy and kindness. How do the two go together?
- How has the Lord shared mercy and kindness in your life?

Complete your monthly report and turn it in to the Corps Officer.

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