

# Gathering

## KINDNESS

There is a funny commercial for the Sour Patch kids' candy. It shows the candy doing something mischievous or behaving sour and then it shows the candy doing something kind or behaving in a sweet manner. The candy itself begins by tasting sour and after a few seconds, it turns sweet. The same can apply to our behavior and daily interactions. There may be moments when we respond to people or situations in a distasteful manner or tone, but we should continually strive to respond with sweetness of lips and purity of heart. Psalm 19:14 says it this way:

*"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, o Lord, my rock and my redeemer".*

The Spirit dwelling in us produces fruit and scripture tells us that kindness is one of the fruits of the spirit available to believers (*Gal. 5:22*). Kindness is the quality of being caring and compassionate, friendly and considerate. It is also selfless and merciful. Kindness is greatest revealed in practice by our caring actions and/or through kind words to people that have hurt us. We often make excuses why not to be kind. We rationalize it by thinking "that person doesn't deserve my kindness". The words we use are a result of what is in our hearts (*Luke 6:45*). Responding in kindness can sometimes seem challenging, but when our hearts and mind are filled with God's goodness and grace (what the Psalm defines as 'the meditation of our hearts') we can then do what seems impossible.

The Good Samaritan was simply going by when he engaged in kindness to the man who had been robbed and wounded unlike the priest and the Levite (*Luke 10:33*). Jesus did not view kindness as something optional when he drew a line that separated those wanting to stone the adulterous woman and his showing kindness to her (*John 8:3-11*). Neither should we. You never know when your random act of kindness can save someone and transform their day from a sour day to a sweet encounter with the savior...

Psalm 19:14

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## KINDNESS continued

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After reading this scripture consider these questions:

- What is the relationship between our ability to show kindness and the conditioning of our hearts?
- What makes kindness unattractive to people today? How would you assess your kindness towards others, especially those who may have hurt you?
- What are some practical ways we can demonstrate kindness in our daily interactions?
- Share personal experiences where kindness was shown to you and how it impacted you.

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



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April Leader's Page



Psalm 19:14



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### **COLOSSIANS 3:12 (NIV)**

What is implied in this reference of kindness as something we 'clothe ourselves' with?

### **2 SAMUEL 9 (NIV)**

Consider the ways King David showed kindness to Mephibosheth. What is most impactful to you and why?

### **ZECARIAH7:9 (NLT)**

What insight do we get from this passage that includes showing true justice, mercy and compassion to one another as part of covenant living?

### **EPHESIANS 4:32 (NIV)**

What is the extent of our showing kindness according to this passage?



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NEOSA Division*

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