



CORNERSTONE REFLECTION GUIDE

JANUARY 26, 2025

Title: What Killed Kindness: What Do I have?

Preacher: Rev. Matt Tuggle

Scripture: Mark 6:30-38

“What difference does it make?” We have all asked that question at some point. It’s easy for us to think about what we lack rather than what we have. However, this mindset is a kindness killer, causing us to miss out on opportunities for God to work through us and within us.

In this week’s sermon, we explore the passage leading up to Jesus’ miracle of feeding the 5,000 with just five loaves of bread and two fish (Mark 6:30-38). Although the disciples focused on the fact that they didn’t have enough, Jesus took what little they did have and used it to meet the needs of the crowd. As followers of Christ, we are called to be “5 + 2” people—giving whatever we have to God and allowing Him to use it to cultivate kindness both in us and around us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stuck out to you about this sermon? Was there an idea that was particularly meaningful or challenging for you?
2. Read Mark 6:31. Jesus had compassion on the crowd because they were like “sheep without a shepherd.” What does this say about Jesus’ heart for people? How does this compare to how we often respond to people in need today?
3. Read Mark 6:36. The disciples suggest sending the people away because they see the problem as insurmountable. Why do you think they responded that way?

What does this teach us about the way we often approach challenges or problems in our own lives?

4. How can trusting in God's provision help us show kindness to others, even when it feels like we don't have enough? How does this challenge your understanding of generosity?
5. Has there been a time when someone's kindness made a difference in your life?
6. How do you feel when you show kindness toward others or bless someone in need?

WEEKLY PRACTICE

If we want to be known for our kindness, then we need to be people who are practicing radical generosity. As followers of Jesus, we believe that "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Giving our time, resources, and talents not only helps us tap into the joy that comes through blessing others, it also breaks the gravitational pull our 'stuff' has on us. As we practice generosity, we actually rewire our hearts to be more loving, caring, and kind toward those around us.

This week, take a personal inventory of what you have (time, resources, talents, etc.). How has God uniquely blessed and positioned you to make a difference in someone else's life? What do you have that God can use to make a difference? Make a list of what you have and ask God to bring someone to mind for whom you could show kindness and make a difference. Spend some time in prayer and ask God, "What would you have me do for this person?" It may involve giving financially, using your gifts to meet a need, sharing a kind word, or simply giving your time.

Remember, although you may not have *everything* needed to solve a problem, you do have something. However small or seemingly insignificant, God can use it abundantly and to do exceedingly more!