What are some ways to cope with situations when people are not kind to you?

- + Recall how Jesus handled those who despised and rejected him?
- + How does God reveal kindness through Jesus?
- + What are practical ways to emulate Jesus' model?

GROWTH:

JOURNAL PROMPT

God, help me to live intentionally this fall as I learn more about your Holy Spirit and the attributes of a life rooted in you. Nourish me through my study of your word, community with my small group, and worship in church. Show me clearly the tasks, relationships, and work to which you are calling me. Amen.

CALLING PROMPT

God is inviting you to participate in his ministry by answering the unique call on your life. How can you actively respond to scripture and God's presence this week?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let's prepare for the week ahead, shaped by our time together today.

Gracious God, we trust that you go with us in the week ahead. We are changed each time we gather to learn more about you and your Word. Please give us boldness to proclaim your good news in the coming week and bring us back safely together again in this community. Amen.



OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, help us to feel your presence during our gathering as a community today. As we do life together and learn more of your Word, help us to grow in faith. Help our time to be fruitful and the fellowship within our group to flourish. Thank you for the gift of today and of this small group study. Amen.

COMMUNITY Time to build relationships: mix + mingle!

- https://standrewmethodist.org/worship/sermons/)
- + Where did you see God's presence in your past weekend?

+ What specific point resonated with you from the weekend's sermon?

+ If you couldn't attend, ask others in your group what stood out to them. (Note: Links to both video and audio versions of previous sermons can be found at

VIDEO – WEEK 5: KINDNESS WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO TAKE NOTES

Kindness is different than being nice or considerate. For the Christian life, it is much deeper. In scripture there is a phrase called chesed, meaning "loving kindness". This is a deeply meaningful type of trust that we are called to put not only in God, but in each other. Kindness is best served when it is genuine. As Jesus brings about the kingdom of heaven, he is clear in every interaction with others to extend a deep knowingness and trust to others... a true loving kindness. He does not treat others transactionally, he does not "use" people. Quite the opposite. Human relationships are made for a real, genuine, investment in one another. Let us Christians be committed to modeling this for the watching world.

Do you feel like the word kindness is overused? Name a helpful synonym.

- kindness to others?
- + How is kindness different from being polite or nice?

What is the relationship between kindness and trust?

What do you think Luke 6:32-33 are describing? What are we called to do in terms of going out of our way for others?

- Consider the inverse.
- kind to. How can you add a new person to this list?

SCRIPTURE

A great starting place is always in God's word. This week we are in:

LUKE 6:27-36

²⁷ "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

SITUATION

QUESTIONS:

+ How do you think the root word kin is related to the way we are called to express

+ Have you noticed it is easier to be kind to people the better you know them?

+ The more we know someone the more difficult it is to not be kind. Kindness push us to cultivate deeper relationships with others. List one person you are reflexively