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MESSAGE APPLICATION Guide

Start with an icebreaker question to get everyone talking, then choose the questions that work best for your group.

Swimming Upstream Week 2 - Kindness

ICE-BREAKER:

When has a personal expression of kindness left a big impression on you?

Ministry opportunities are often unexpected. To “seize the moment,” you must be willing to be interrupted. Are you open to these “interruptions” to your day?

DISCUSS:

God calls us to swim upstream and show counter-culture kindness, which is really love in action. Which of the following attitudes is more like you and why - keeping my distance, curious but uncaring, or showing kindness?

Think of an instance when God gave you an opportunity to be a “Good Samaritan”. Was it difficult to share your time and resources with others? Discuss why.

READ: *“Always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.”*
- **1 Thessalonians 5:15b**

There are often two reasons why we can’t see when someone else is hurting. Either they are hiding their need, or we are in a hurry. In this culture where everything is so fast-paced what steps can we take to slow down and look around?

READ: *“Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him.” - Luke 10:33 (NLT2)*

What if we were to stop asking, “What is wrong with people?” and instead started asking, “What happened to them?” How could this make a difference in our kindness quotient?

APPLY:

What may seem like a coincidence is often a God-engineered divine appointment. If you wait too long to respond, you might miss the moment. How can you better prepare yourself to seize the moment when it comes to showing kindness to those you meet?