

Kindness

The Bible tells us to be nice to others. “Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake has forgiven you” (Eph. 4:32).

We are taught at home, at church and at school to treat others with love and respect. Although it’s not always easy to do, it is God’s will. In fact, Jesus taught how we should get along with others. It’s called the Golden Rule. In everything, treat others as you would want them to treat you (Matt. 7:12).

Everyone would like to be treated fairly and accepted by others, so likewise it would be good and fair that all are treated with kindness. The Golden Rule doesn’t allow for unkindness or being mean, such as teasing, bullying, telling lies or rumors, gossiping, rejecting, or hating others.

Being a friend and having friends is a great blessing. We want to treat our friends in a nice way so that they feel welcomed and like to have fun with us.

There was once a boy who was wanting friends. He wanted to be accepted like everyone else but was treated badly and became very sad and hurt by it.

This boy was poor, and his family had problems; they had little time for him. At school, he was teased and harassed. He never fought back, but took the pain and suffering with a trembling smile. During a planned campout the other boys decided that they didn’t want him there. He felt sad and rejected and left camp with his head hung low. Slowly he walked home alone and in the dark. This once happy boy’s wish for fun and adventure was crushed like a pop can. Would he ever recover from his pain and disappointment?

Some of the boys were sorry for what they had done. They knew it was not right and wished they had the strength to stop the others from being mean at the camp. They wanted to apologize for hurting, making fun of, and rejecting another person.

We also want to take care of matters if we have offended others. As believers, we can ask to have our sins forgiven in Jesus’ name and blood, as well as saying we’re sorry to others. May we all ask God to help us treat others with kindness and respect, to be friends with all people, and include others in our group.

Brian Johnson

Things to Visit About:

1. If we see someone being mean to another, should we say something or remain silent?
2. Does being kind to others give us a good or bad feeling?
3. Stop to think about your friends. Does your group welcome others? Are some not allowed to be in the group? Why?