



LOVE IS KIND

"I KNOW THAT YOU ARE A GRACIOUS AND MERCIFUL GOD,
SLOW TO ANGER AND ABUNDANT IN LOVINGKINDNESS."

Jonah 4:2 NKJV

When

we travel long distances and cannot get home before day's end, we must seek out alternative places to rest. For this very purpose, various hotels and motels have cropped up all over the country. When we check into a hotel, we pay for a room in which we can sleep. The accommodations are simple, but they meet our basic needs—bed and bathroom, pillows, blankets and towels. They're nothing fancy, but that hardly matters when the lights are turned out. Many a hotel has found creative ways to make their guests feel welcome. Though all we pay for is the room, they provide small amenities to make our stay a comfortable one. Tiny bottles of shampoo, bars of soap,



CLEARING + THE + COBWEBS

What is the fanciest hotel you've ever stayed in? What most impressed you about your accommodations?





God pours His love over us, and we are changed.

Nicole Johnson

extra blankets in the closet, a coffee pot, an ironing board. Wakeup calls, swimming pools, exercise facilities, and shuttle buses. Maid service, room service, shirt laundries, shoe shines. The more expensive the hotel, the more elaborate the services they offer to their guests. Turndown services, monogrammed bathrobes, fruit baskets, and the epitome of luxury—the mint on the pillow.

Technically speaking, these little kindnesses were not required. All we really needed was a bed for the night. But the hotel staff went beyond what was expected of them in order to make us feel special. God's kindness is a little like this. We need His love, and His love would be enough for us. But God embellishes His love with kindness. God's love is kind, and His kindness makes His love all the more welcome.

1. What does Psalm 117:2 say about God's kindness?



2. God's love and His kindness are so intertwined, that the Scriptures put the two words together—lovingkindness. Match the verses below:

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|-------------------|--|
| ___ Nehemiah 9:17 | a. Your lovingkindness and Your truth preserve me. |
| ___ Psalm 42:8 | b. The LORD your God is greatly kind. |
| ___ Psalm 40:11 | c. "With everlasting kindness I will have mercy." |
| ___ Psalm 69:16 | d. You are God, abundant in kindness. |
| ___ Psalm 119:76 | e. "My kindness shall not depart from you." |
| ___ Isaiah 54:8 | f. Your lovingkindness is good. |
| ___ Isaiah 54:10 | g. The LORD reigns with lovingkindness all day long. |
| ___ Joel 2:13 | h. Let Your merciful kindness be my comfort. |

3. God's kindness extends to all people, even to those who are not grateful for it! This kindness is one way in which God draws us to Himself, leading us to repentance. What was the ultimate kindness of God, according to Titus 3:4?

*Now is the time to live as
Christ lived. Now is the
time to love as Christ
loved.*

Sheila Walsh



*God loves you . . . and
that changes everything.*

Nicole Johnson

4. Paul spoke of God's kindness. According to Ephesians 2:7, what did Paul compare God's kindness to us through Christ Jesus to?

We live in a day and age where kindness is optional. It seems to have gone the way of common courtesies. Kindness has fallen into disuse, and it's difficult to define. Oh, it crops up now and again. We tell our children to be kind to animals. Video stores employ small stickers with the pithy plea: "Be kind. Rewind." Bumper stickers urge passersby to commit random acts of kindness. But kindness is more than simple courtesies. Kindness is an attribute of God, which we can both enjoy and reflect.



5. How did David regard the lovingkindness of God, according to Psalm 36:7? And in that same verse, what did this lovingkindness lead people to do?

6. What is the follow-up prayer we find in Psalm 36:10?

*Blessing and honor,
dominion and power be
unto You, Most High
God.*

Thelma Wells



Receiving God's Love



*We are safe in the
arms of Jesus.*

Barbara Johnson

7. David doesn't stop with gratitude. His praise of God's love and kindness becomes quite effusive! How does Psalm 63:3 describe the lovingkindness of God?

8. Kindness is mentioned alongside love in the most famous biblical dissertation on the subject. What does 1 Corinthians 13:4 tell us about love?



9. Last but not least, kindness is a quality listed among eight other significant ones. Where does Galatians 5:22 say that kindness in our hearts comes from?

DIGGING DEEPER

God has dealt kindly with us, and as we grow to be more like Him, kindness blossoms in our own hearts. What did Paul urge believers to do in Romans 12:10, and how does he describe kind behavior in this verse?

PONDER & PRAY

You can't be kind with nobody around to be kind to! This week pray not only that you'll have eyes opened to see God's kindness to you, but that He'll place people in your path so you can show kindness to them. Acts of kindness needn't be random. Be purposeful in reflecting this attribute of God in the days ahead.



TRINKET TO TREASURE

God could have decided that all of mankind needed "tough love" and kept it at that. Take it or leave it. But He didn't. God infused His love for us with kindness. Since we've compared this to hotels providing more than the barest of necessities for their guests, this week's trinket will be a mint—the famous mint on your pillow. God, like our hotel management, goes above and beyond to make us feel welcome.

✦ NOTES & PRAYER REQUESTS ✦
