

# DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

Mother's Day 2018

May 12/13, 2018

Main Idea:

***"He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8 ESV)***

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## Discovery Questions

1. What's a favorite memory you have of your mother, grandmother, or a figure who played a motherly role in your life?

We're taking a break from our Daniel series this week to celebrate Mother's Day. This past weekend, we heard a message from Hosea 11:1-4 about the importance of kindness. We'll take a look at this passage again today and see what we can learn about the example that God has set for us to show to other people.

2. Read Hosea 11:1-4. What does God say He did for the people of Israel? List as many things as you can find.

If we are called to follow the example of our Lord, then we are to show the same kindness to others that God has shown to us, His people. With that in mind, answer the following questions.

3.
  - a. What are the reasons that people give for why they can't (or *won't*) be kind to other people?
  - b. Who is someone whose kindness has inspired you - either in the way that they were kind to you, or in the way that you saw their kindness shown to others? What have you learned from their example?
4.
  - a. In your life, do you have an example of how a kind word to another person really impacted them or diffused a tough situation?
  - b. Do you ever struggle to show kindness to others? What situations or circumstances make it difficult to be kind to one another?
  - c. Who is someone that you encounter regularly that could use a word or action of kindness right now? Maybe it's someone you struggle to be kind to, or maybe it's someone going through a tough situation who needs someone to come alongside them. What can you do this week that could be an act of kindness?

5. In his book *Love Kindness*, Biola University President Barry Corey writes,

***"The goal of the kind life is not to be thanked; it is to be obedient. Whether or not the grocery clerk or the college professor receives my overtures of kindness should not be my concern. Jesus never said we would be received. He simply said we need to make ourselves receivable—that is, to remove the distance or the obstacles that keep others from seeing Jesus within us... Living the way of kindness should not be measured by how people perceive me. Living the way of kindness calls us to a posture of humility, and humility is most authentically lived when I accept that my kindness will sometimes be rejected. Kindness focuses on how I open myself for others to receive me, whether they choose to or not."***

Respond to this quote. How does this remove some obstacles that prevent us from being kind to people?

*Leader Guide Starts on Next Page*

# DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

## Leader Guide

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**1. What's a favorite memory you have of your mother, grandmother, or a figure who played a motherly role in your life?**

*This is a "lighter" question designed to get the conversation going. Spend about 5-7 minutes on this question.*

**We're taking a break from our Daniel series this week to celebrate Mother's Day. This past weekend, we heard a message from Hosea 11:1-4 about the importance of kindness. We'll take a look at this passage again today and see what we can learn about the example that God has set for us to show to other people.**

**2. Read Hosea 11:1-4. What does God say He did for the people of Israel? List as many things as you can find.**

*Hosea is a book that was written as the Northern Kingdom of Israel was about to be captured by the Assyrians as a result of their disobedience. In Hosea 11:1-4, God is using the prophet Hosea to tell the Israelites all that He has done for them—and the ways that they have constantly rebuffed His love and attention. God treated Israel as a father treats a child, but despite His love towards them, Israel turned away. Even though Israel needed much correction, God says that he always did it in kindness (v. 4), not treating them severely but with love.*

*Spend 7-10 minutes on this question.*

**If we are called to follow the example of our Lord, then we are to show the same kindness to others that God has shown to us, His people. With that in mind, answer the following questions.**

- 3. a. What are the reasons that people give for why they can't (or won't) be kind to other people?  
b. Who is someone whose kindness has inspired you - either in the way that they were kind to you, or in the way that you saw their kindness shown to others? What have you learned from their example?**

*For part "a," there are several reasons people give for why they can't—or won't—show kindness to others. People who have been hurt by others have a hard time showing kindness to the people who hurt them. Some people don't think that others deserve kindness based on the choices they have made in life or even (unfortunately) based on things they can't control—such as race, religion, looks, etc. Other people struggle with being kind to others because kindness takes time, and in a world where we are constantly on the move, we often don't have or want to give away that time.*

*Spend 7-10 minutes on this question in its entirety.*

- 4. a. In your life, do you have an example of how a kind word to another person really impacted them or diffused a tough situation?  
b. Do you ever struggle to show kindness to others? What situations or circumstances make it difficult to be kind to one another?**

# DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- c. **Who is someone that you encounter regularly that could use a word or action of kindness right now? Maybe it's someone you struggle to be kind to, or maybe it's someone going through a tough situation who needs someone to come alongside them. What can you do this week that could be an act of kindness?**

*For part "c," move people to commit to doing something concrete this week. It could be reaching out with a phone call, asking a coworker out to lunch, giving a gift card to someone in need, stopping to talk with someone they encounter on a regular basis, etc. You may also want to ask what would get in the way of such kindness. A response might be "I don't know if they will receive it well"—a point that will be discussed in question #5.*

*Spend about 10-12 minutes on this question in its entirety.*

5. **In his book *Love Kindness*, Biola University President Barry Corey writes,**

***"The goal of the kind life is not to be thanked; it is to be obedient. Whether or not the grocery clerk or the college professor receives my overtures of kindness should not be my concern. Jesus never said we would be received. He simply said we need to make ourselves receivable—that is, to remove the distance or the obstacles that keep others from seeing Jesus within us... Living the way of kindness should not be measured by how people perceive me. Living the way of kindness calls us to a posture of humility, and humility is most authentically lived when I accept that my kindness will sometimes be rejected. Kindness focuses on how I open myself for others to receive me, whether they choose to or not."***

- Respond to this quote. How does this remove some obstacles that prevent us from being kind to people?**

*As stated in the Leader's Guide to the previous question, sometimes people struggle with being kind to others because they're afraid it won't be received well. Our responsibility is not to worry about how something is—or isn't—received. Instead, our responsibility is simply to reach out in kindness. God in Hosea 11 and His Son in the gospels were not always received well for their acts of kindness. But that doesn't matter; our responsibility is to "love kindness" (Micah 6:8) and leave the results up to the other person and to God.*

*Spend 7-10 minutes on this question.*