

One of the lessons YOUR CHILDREN learned in SUMMER BIBLE SCHOOL:

# Count on KINDNESS!

by Robert Hatfield

Summer Bible School (SBS) continues to bring an annual dose of energy and excitement to the church building on Tuesday's and Thursday's from 9:00-11:00. Classes have been well attended. The attendance for Tuesday, June 17 was as follows: pre-school, **nine**, 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> grades, **nine**, and 4<sup>th</sup> and up, **fourteen**. With ten adult teachers and helpers, the attendance overall was **41! THANK YOU** to each parent, grandparent, friend and neighbor who makes SBS possible by bring your children and friends! Additionally, we are continually indebted to each teacher for the sacrifice of much time and effort to make every class memorable, special and (most importantly) Biblical.

Each study is centered around how much **God loves us**. The following is one of the great lessons that adults may learn from our studies.

Some knew her by Tabitha, while others knew her by Dorcas; regardless of the name by which she was called, her life was a testament to the power of kindness. Acts 9:36 says that Tabitha was "full of good works and almsdeeds which she did." Tabitha made coats and garments for saints and widows and, consequently, impacted these individuals as no one had done before. Tabitha's impact was so great that, when she became sick and died, the people sent for Peter, for they knew that he, one of the apostles, would possibly be able to raise Tabitha from the dead. Upon his arrival to the town of Joppa, Peter sent the mourners away, knelt down, and prayed. Then he turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, arise" (9:40); she opened her eyes and was presented alive to those who had so greatly missed her! The result was profound: "many believed in the Lord" (Acts 9:42).



Tabitha teaches Christians today that **kindness counts!** In fact, one could say that, in addition to her testament to the power of kindness, Tabitha portrays one great example of personal evangelism by simply being kind to those around her! The New Testament teaches that Tabitha's light of kindness is to shine forth from every Christian to every person with whom he or she comes in contact (Matt. 5:16).

**Jesus believed that kindness counts.** The golden rule is hinged on the basis of kindness to others (Matt. 7:12). Further, Jesus taught: But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for **he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil** (Luke 6:35, emp. added, RH)

**The apostle Paul taught kindness.** In fact, one of the "key verses" regarding kindly living was written by the inspired pen of Paul:

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you (Eph. 4:32)



Romans 12 admonishes Christians to be careful not to return evil for evil, but to "provide things honest in the sight of all men" (12:17).

Christians live peaceably with all men (12:18); they do not retaliate, for vengeance belongs to God and not to them (12:19). Christians are not overcome of evil, but will "overcome evil with good" (12:21).

Overcoming evil with good seemed to be Tabitha's area of expertise. She helped others to see the light of God through simple kindness. Therefore, live righteously and be kind, for our kindness may lead a soul to a knowledge of our Lord and eternal salvation!

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