

JUNE 2022



As we continue our journey exploring the fruit of the Spirit, June brings us to **KINDNESS**. With the summer comes more family “together” time. Kids are out of school; adult children are returning from college; and family trips and vacations are scheduled. These summer changes provide much opportunity for each of us to put on kindness. Therefore, let’s begin this summer praying for Kindness. The following are prayer prompts from *Risen Motherhood*:

Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

Colossians 3:12

Prayer prompts

- For the Lord to help expand our understanding of the great kindness of God towards us through Christ Jesus
- For us to intentionally “put on” the kindness of God on a daily basis and clothe ourselves in this supernatural trait
- For the Holy Spirit to convict us whenever we are unkind and for the humility to ask for forgiveness
- To be women whose words and actions are characterized by kindness and to promote a culture of kindness in our home and community

Ladies, make sure you join us for our Summer Bible Studies and our fellowship opportunities this summer. We will continue to update the website with the latest details!



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Special points of interest

- Summer Bible Study kicks off Tuesday, June 14th.
- Working Women’s Fellowship Dinner, June 29th

Parables *of Jesus*

9:30 – 11:30 AM · Chapel
Nursery available, Reservations required



June 14 · Amanda Peterson · The Parable of the Sower



June 21 · Denise Hamilton · The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant



June 28 · Susan Bellows · The Parable of the Lost Sheep



July 12 · Annette Blake · The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders



July 19 · Rebekah Vermeer · The Parable of the Ten Virgins



July 26 · Sue Lewis · The Parable of the Weeds

SAVE the DATE

Working Women Fellowship Dinner

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26	27	28	29	30		

Working Women we understand that your work/life schedule impacts how and to what extent you can participate in many of our women's events at Briarwood. However, we want you to know that we care for you and want to provide opportunities that are specifically designed with you in mind.

We would like to invite you to join us:

Wednesday, June 29, 2022

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Fellowship Hall

- **Food.** Taco Mama (pay \$5 at the door)
- **Fellowship** with other Working women
- **Encouragement.** We have invited three working women to sit on a panel and share from their struggles, their joys and the wisdom they have gained through seasons of juggling life and work

Let us know you are attending by signing up at: [Briarwood Working Women](#)

Please visit our website for more information about the Women's Care Team

[CLICK HERE](#)



Briarwood Women's Care Team

The Women's Ministry has been working towards enhancing how we minister to women. Specifically, church leaders have asked us to develop a team of women focused on serving women in crisis who are also sensitive to the needs of those being helped. We have recently launched our first Women's Care Team made up of 9 Briarwood women. While each team member fully understands her own limitations, each is confident that the Lord will work in the midst of crisis and each desires to be used to minister to Briarwood women.

The focus of the ministry of the Women's Care Team is as follows:

The Women's Care Team's primary focus is to serve as advocates for women experiencing significant needs and/or in crisis, and to come alongside the staff and leadership as they minister to women in the congregation in difficult circumstances.

We are thankful to the Lord for this opportunity to expand how we serve the women of Briarwood. We do ask that you pray for us as we navigate a new ministry opportunity.

To find out more information, or to request help, visit:

briarwood.org/women-of-the-covenant/womens-care-team/

LOVE MINISTRY



The L.O.V.E. Ministry is an outreach to Briarwood members who are no longer able to attend regular services at the church due to mobility or health-related issues.

Each Monday morning the L.O.V.E. Ministry members gather at the flower room to pick up vases of flowers to deliver to Briarwood members in senior living homes, nursing homes and assisted living homes. Their goal: to bring light into the lives of Briarwood members and others who are unable to actively participate in the weekly activities of the church.

During the summer months we need extra volunteers to help while different people are on vacation. If you are able to join us one time or on a regular basis, we would love to have you join this beautiful ministry.

For more information: darby@turningheartsministries.com.

Additional Opportunities:

- Prepare flowers Monday mornings, 8:30 am - 10:00 am.
- Donation needs: Full aprons, hand written cards of encouragement, plain fluted bud vases, cut flowers.

Kindness: More than Just a Random Act

Mary Kassain

Kindness is a trait that's in short supply these days. Just think of how people interact on social media. Or while driving on the road. Or in a fast-food lineup that isn't moving fast. Just think of how kids interact at school or on the playground. Or how family members interact at home. How often have you witnessed behavior that is markedly unkind? How often, as a mom, have you struggled to be kind?

Sadly, kindness is the exception rather than the rule in our schools, workplaces, homes, and communities. That's why concerned philanthropists have established numerous nonprofits that seek to inspire and increase acts of kindness. There are dozens and dozens of kindness-promoting organizations.

These charitable organizations provide kindness lesson plans for school children, kindness ideas for workplaces, kindness quotes, kindness stories, posters, and calendars. They produce kindness YouTube videos and movies, go on kindness-promoting school tours, educate kindness ambassadors and coaches, provide workplace kindness training, and collect and track kindness data.

But has it worked? Are people, on the whole, getting any kinder?

Kindness of a Different Kind

Most people think that being kind merely means being nice. It's "the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate."^[1] If someone is warm, polite, and does benevolent things for others, that makes her a kind person.

Kindness-promoting organizations encourage people to show kindness by returning a shopping cart for a stranger at the grocery store, giving up a seat to an elderly person on the bus, paying for the coffee of the next person in the drive-through, or by other random acts of kindness. They expect that kind acts will help unkind people become kind people.

While there's nothing wrong with encouraging people to do nice things, the Bible has a radically different take on kindness. It teaches that kindness is a fruit of the Spirit, a supernatural gift from God. Kindness is much more than being friendly, generous, and considerate. Kindness is what God is:

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, (Titus 3:4-5)

Notice that the kindness of God is a person. The Kindness of God appeared—*he* saved us. *He* (Jesus) is the kindness of God.

Jesus is the embodiment of kindness. He defines what kindness truly is. What's more, these verses from Titus suggest that if we want to be kind like Jesus, our "righteous works" are not enough. Kind actions don't have the capacity to create a kind heart. Only Jesus can do that. Apart from Jesus, "there is no one who does what is good, not even one" (Romans 3:12, CSB).

Kindness originates with God the Father and finds its meaning in who he is and what he does—and particularly in and through his greatest, kindest, most philanthropic act—sending his Son to purchase our salvation.

Attempts to produce kindness will not bring about lasting change if they fail to address the fallen condition of the human heart. But a heart that has been made good through the kindness of Christ will most certainly overflow with kindness toward others.

A Good, Kind Heart

For a child of God, kindness is never truly random or senseless. Instead, it bears witness to the kindness of our heavenly Father and the great redemptive work of Jesus. We are kind because God is kind, and because through Jesus, our hearts are filled to the brim with goodness.

To be kind is to have a good heart that is inclined toward doing good things for others. In Scripture, kindness not only describes the beneficial nature of a deed, but also indicates that the deed is motivated by the godly character of the benefactor.

The main challenge in understanding the biblical meaning of the word *kindness* is the fact that it belongs to a cluster of attributes that go together, overlap in meaning, and are even used interchangeably sometimes. If a woman is kind—in the godly sense of the word—then she is also merciful, gracious, patient, gentle, and forgiving. Her heart is characterized by goodness. That’s why in Scripture, the word for *kindness* is often translated as “good” or “goodness.”

It’s like the words window and glass. They don’t mean exactly the same thing. But they’re so strongly associated that if I were to say, “She peered out through the glass,” you’d assume she was looking through a window, and if I said, “She peered out through the window,” you’d assume that she was looking through a piece of glass, even though technically, window and glass are two separate things.

Kindness is a byproduct of goodness. It encompasses an attitude of benevolence, but it also involves other godly character traits like tenderheartedness, humility, sympathy, patience, forgiveness, and gentleness.

All of the attributes in the word cloud contribute to what it means to be kind. So, if you want to be the type of wife and mom who is kind toward her husband and kids, it’s important for you to tackle the challenge at a deep heart level, by working on your character, and not just your behavior. Do you want to increase in kindness? Then aim to be more patient. Aim to be humbler. Aim to be more forgiving. Aim to be gentler. Aim to be more sympathetic. As you grow in these related traits, you will also grow in kindness.

Kindness Tips

Would your friends describe you as a kind person? Would your husband? Your kids? When one of them does something to try your patience, do you respond with kindness?

Most of us could use some help in the kindness department. So here are five quick tips to help you develop this important trait.

- 1. Meditate on the great kindness of God.** God is immeasurably kind. Scripture points out that it is his great kindness that leads us to repentance (Romans 2:4). His kindness towards us is the foundation of our kindness towards others. You will grow kinder as you expand your understanding of his kindness. Pondering Ephesians 2:4–10 is a good place to start.

2. Recognize that kindness is a discipleship issue. In one of Scripture's most famous mentoring passages, older women are instructed to *train* the younger women to be kind (Titus 2:5). Kindness is a discipleship issue. You need to *learn* how to be kind. Thus, you would do well to hang around some older godly women to observe this trait in their lives. What's more, you could ask them for input and feedback on how you could grow in this area.

3. Intentionally put kindness on. In Colossians 3:12, Paul admonished his friends to "put on" God's kindness. The Greek word means to envelope oneself in, or to clothe with. The metaphor of changing clothes was widely used in the ancient world to illustrate spiritual transformation. The apostle wanted his friends to understand that since they were now saints, they needed to start dressing the part. They needed to intentionally put on the apparel of Christ and clothe themselves with his kindness. You can do this too. Every morning as you are getting dressed, you can dress yourself with kindness through prayer. Pray something like this, "Lord, I choose to put on your kindness today. Please help me be kind."

4. Watch for kindness killers. Kindness killers are sinful attitudes and actions that cause us to be unkind rather than kind. They are attitudes and actions that are opposite of the ones in the kindness word cloud. Sins like impatience, callousness, pride, entitlement, harshness, meanness, unforgiveness, and resentment are kindness killers. Whenever you see a kindness killer crop up in your heart, or in your actions or words, immediately stop what you are doing to confess and repent. You can kill the kindness killer by confessing, "I'm sorry, that was unkind." And by firing off an emergency prayer to heaven to ask God for help.

5. Love to show kindness. The Lord wants us to *love* to put his kindness on display. "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, emphasis mine). Every day, watch for opportunities to demonstrate kindness toward others.

For a believer, kindness is a fruit of the Spirit that is empowered, enabled, and directed by God. When our kindness extends beyond those who deserve or reciprocate our benevolence, when it reaches out to those whose shortcomings and failures we know full well, that is when we reflect the heart of him who is "kind to the ungrateful and the evil" (Luke 6:35).

A kind-hearted Christian woman is a rare find in this self-centered world where there are far more takers than givers. Christian kindness, expressed in our attitudes and actions, our speech on the Internet and social media, in our relationships and in our homes, in our churches and communities, is a powerful means of displaying the amazing kindness of Christ.

[1] "The Importance Of Kindness". 2021. *Psychology Today*. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/pieces-mind/201712/the-importance-kindness>.

Editor's Note: Portions of this article were drawn from the author's book, "True Woman 201: Interior Design—Ten Elements of Biblical Womanhood." By Mary A. Kassian and Nancy Leigh DeMoss (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 2015). pp 160-177.

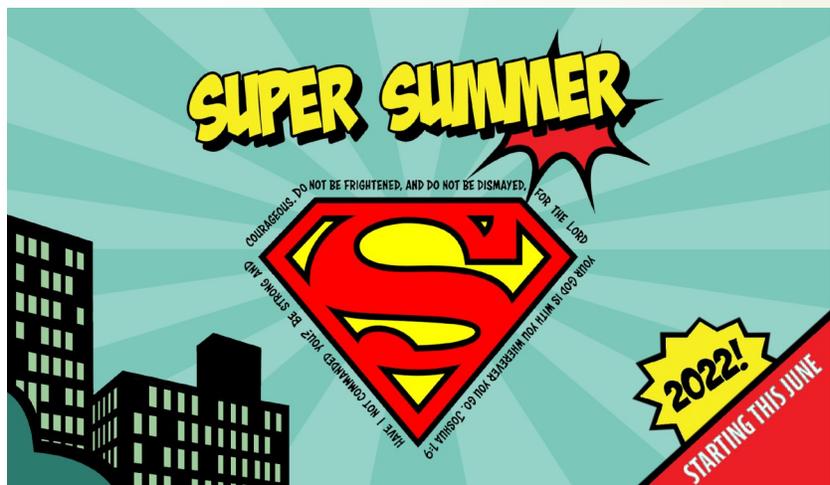
VBS 2022



Vacation Bible School will be June 6–10, 2022 from 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. each day and is open to Briarwood members and visitors. VBS is FREE but t-shirts will be available the week of VBS for \$10. To register go to briarwood.org/vbs.

Super Summer 2022 June 13 – August 4

briarwood.org/supersummer



WEEK #1

June 13 (K5): Inflatables & Ice Cream

June 15 (3rd & 4th): Laser Tag

June 14 (1st & 2nd): Chuck E Cheese

June 16 (5th & 6th): Splash Adventure

PCA General Assembly June 21-24, 2022 Birmingham, AL: BJCC

To learn more and to
register visit

<https://pcaga.org/>



5 Year Bible Reading Plan

You can download the
5-year plan by visiting:

[https://briarwood.org/
women-of-the-
covenant/five-year-
bible-reading-plan/](https://briarwood.org/women-of-the-covenant/five-year-bible-reading-plan/)

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JUNE

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Briarwood and Supported Ministries Employment Opportunities

Ladies, there are some wonderful ministry employment opportunities for the women of Briarwood. If you or someone you know might be interested in one of the positions, we would encourage you to investigate the opportunity.

Director, Women Business Leaders

Are you the one God is going to use as the next Director of Women Business Leaders (WBL)? Your work will be focused on reaching working women in the Birmingham market with the gospel and strengthening their faith by establishing one-on-one relationships, organizing small groups, facilitating mentor/mentee relationships, and planning community events. Skills needed include strong written and oral communications, managerial and strategic planning, fundraising, and leadership. A bachelor's degree, ministry leadership and business experience are required. Please contact Rob Genin, rgein@briarwood.org or 205-776-5455

Administrative Assistant – Assistant to Pastor of Board Directed Ministries

[Full Job Description, click here.](#) Provide administrative support for the Pastor of Board Directed Ministries, keeping him informed, resourced, and prepared in order to be freed to focus on fulfilling his major ministry responsibilities. Also, expand deep-wide influence by providing leadership and additional training or assistance as needed to the administrative teams serving various Board Directed Ministries, exhibiting integrity, administrative initiative, good judgment, confidentiality, strong time management skills, and flexibility. Interested individuals should contact Jim Alexander at jalexander@briarwood.org.

Administrative Assistant – YBL Ministries

Young Business Leaders is looking for a full-time administrative assistant to support YBL Birmingham, Women Business Leaders, and the 2nd Half through event planning, communication, creativity and design skills, and a ministry mindset. Proficiency in Microsoft Office is required. Experience with databases and email marketing is desired. Contact Rob Genin at rgein@briarwood.org or 205-776-5455.

Administrative Supervisor – Nursery

This is a part-time job (25–30 hours) for a Briarwood Member that is interacting with parents, loving on children, and helping to support the Nursery Director with day-to-day needs. For more information contact Alison Craig at acraig@briarwood.org or 205.776.5214.

Special Connections Ministry

Special Connections is seeking a part-time person to work primarily on Sunday mornings from 7:45 a.m.–10:45 a.m., to care for teens and adults with autism or developmental disabilities. It may also include some Sunday nights and Wednesday nights on an as-needed basis. The care could potentially be physically demanding. The ideal candidate is someone with a love for Christ and to serve others with disabilities. They would need to have the necessary experience, training and skills to provide quality care. For more information, please contact Patti at pclaud@briarwood.org or 205.776.5282.

Full-time with World Reach in Hoover, AL. Develop and manage all World Reach communications, publications and social media to effectively promote the ministries and missionaries of World Reach. Also schedule and lead special events, assist with general administrative office functions and coordinate office technology and software systems of the Mission. A bachelor's degree in communications, journalism, graphic design or similar experience preferred. Contact Heather at World Reach for further information at 205.979.2400 or info@world-reach.org.

Full-time 3K/3T teacher; Teacher's Aide, and Director of Early Childhood Education. Foundations Early Learning and Family Center serves children and families and is located in Fairfield. Highly competitive salary and benefits. See FoundationsEarlyLearning.org for application information.