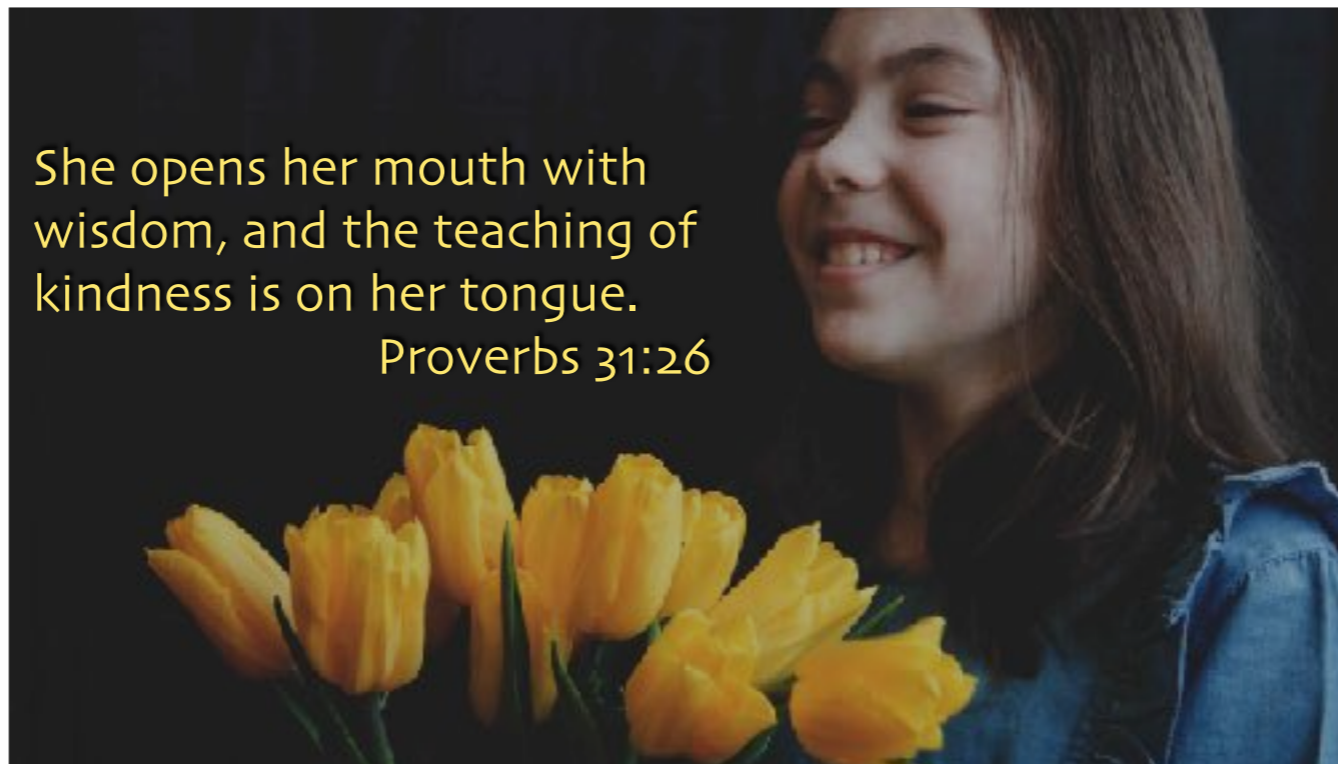




- Ruth 1:4 These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years,



She opens her mouth with
wisdom, and the teaching of
kindness is on her tongue.
Proverbs 31:26

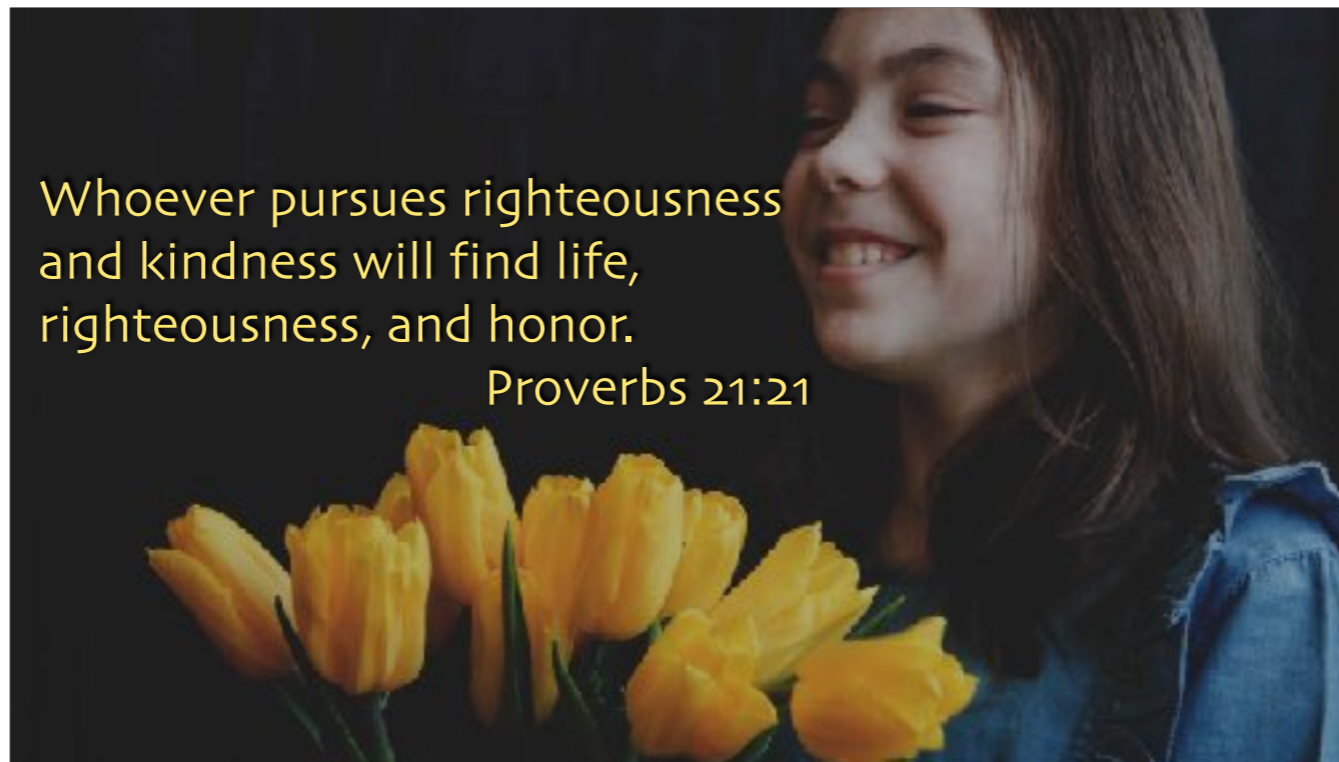
- Proverbs 31:26 She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

A man who is kind
benefits himself,
but a cruel man hurts
himself.

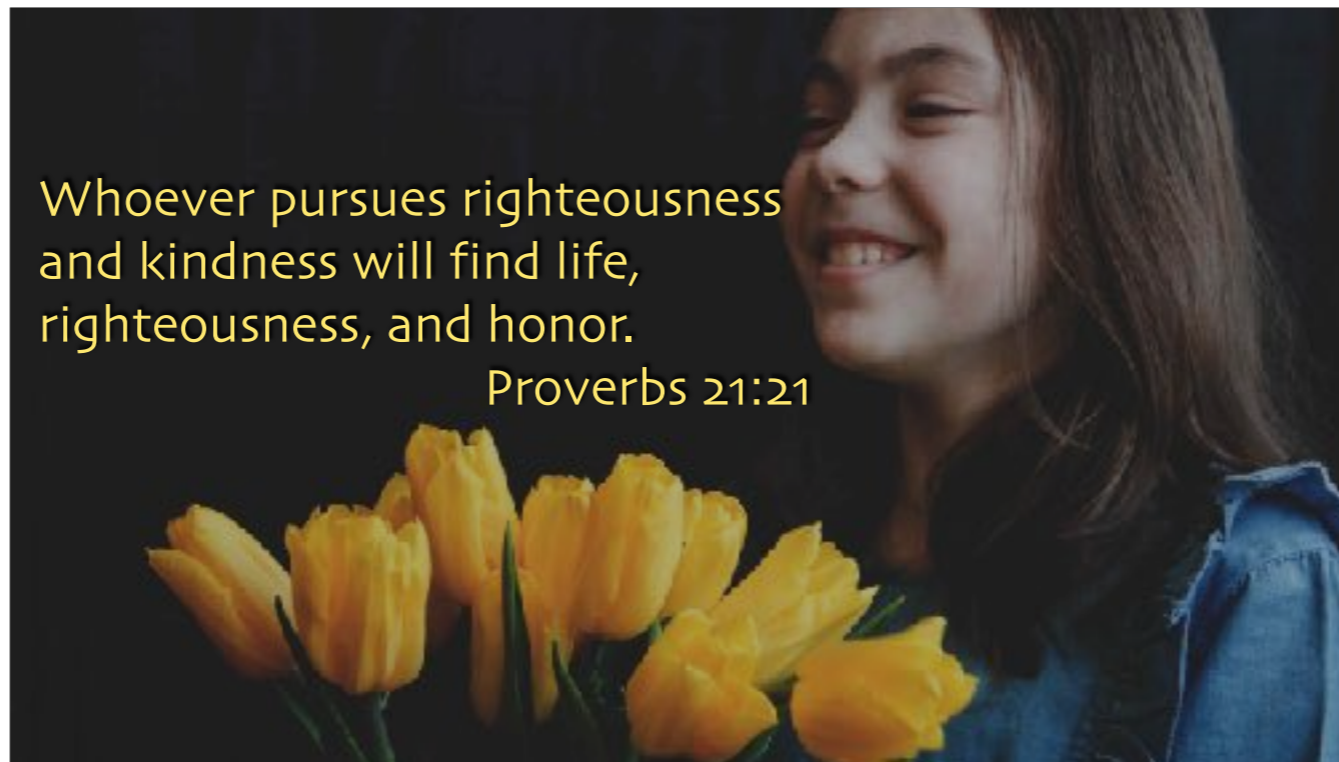
Proverbs 11:17



- Proverbs 11:17 A man who is kind benefits himself, but a cruel man hurts himself.



- Proverbs 21:21 Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness will find life, righteousness, and honor.
- Do we undervalue the importance of kindness?
 - Do we look for underlying motives when people are kind?

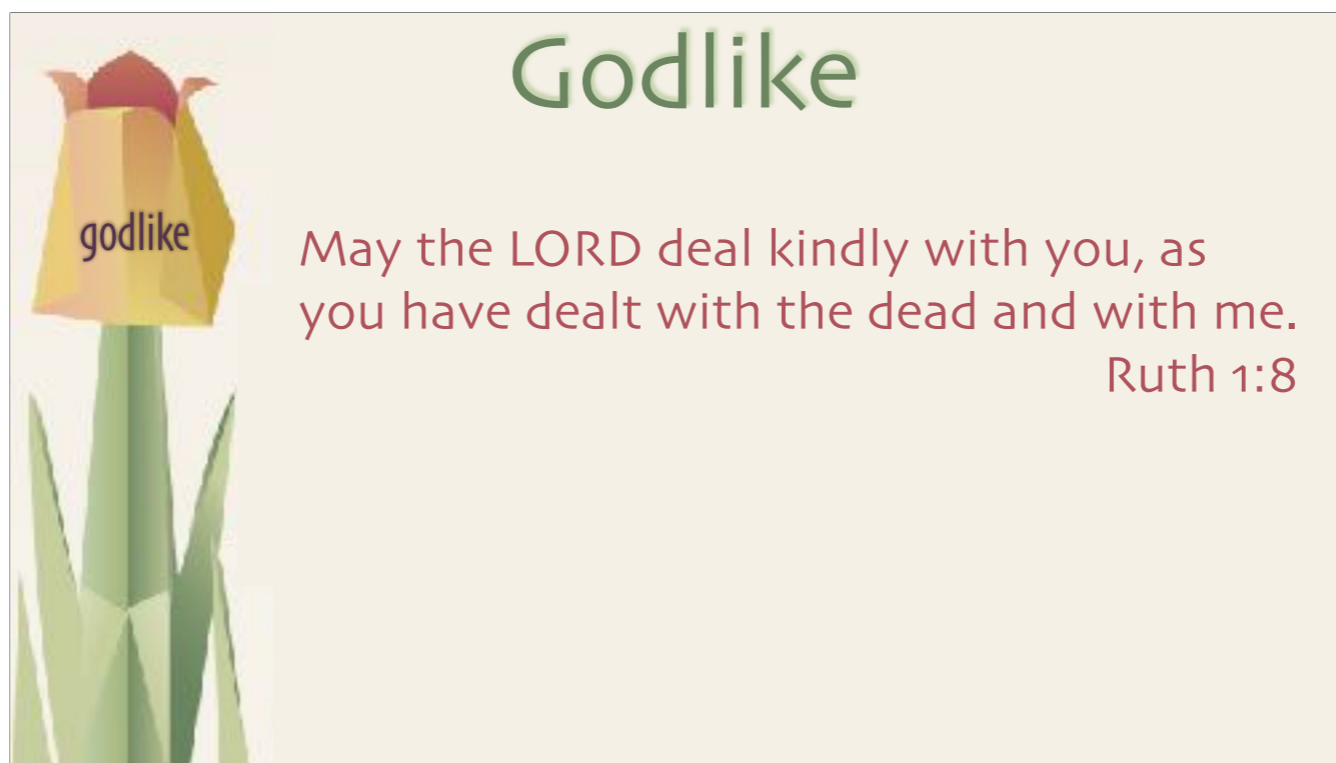


- Boaz's Summary of Ruth


- Ruth 2:11-12: But Boaz answered her, "All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. 12 The LORD repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!"



- Kindness is godlike
- Kindness is devoted
- Kindness is determined
- Kindness is responsive
- Kindness is considerate
- Kindness is a blessing



- Kindness is Godlike — emulates the character of Jehovah.
- Ruth 1:8 But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go, return each of you to her mother’s house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.




Godlike

May the LORD deal kindly with you, as
you have dealt with the dead and with me.
Ruth 1:8

The LORD is faithful in all his words
and kind in all his works.
Psalm 145:13

- Psalms 145:13-20 (ESV)

- [The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.]
- 14 The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.
- 15 The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.
- 16 You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing.



Godlike

May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.
Ruth 1:8

The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.
Psalm 145:13

- 17 The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works.
- 18 The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.
- 19 He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them.
- 20 The LORD preserves all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

Devoted



but Ruth clung to her
Ruth 1:14

- Kindness is devoted
- Ruth 1:14 Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.
 - Kindness is clingy. Later in the book, this word is translated “close” (like, stay close)
 - Clingy seems a bit negative, so,
 - let’s say **Kindness chooses to stay close, or be devoted**
 - Even when they are being pushed away (however gently and considerately)

Devoted



but Ruth clung to her
Ruth 1:14

And let us consider how to stir up
one another to love and good works
Hebrews 10:24

- Why would I choose to be close to someone who is bitter and suffering?
 - Perhaps this is an important part of changing how we look at others, especially those in need.
 - Hebrews 10:24-25 (ESV) 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Determined



And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

Ruth 1:18

- Kindness is determined

- Ruth 1:15-18 (ESV)

- 15 And she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” 16 But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. 17 Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.” 18 And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

Determined



And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

Ruth 1:18

- Determined
 - Strong, bold, determined, courageous
 - (TWOT) In the Hithpael stem the translation is "strengthen oneself," "persist in," "prove superior to," "make oneself alert."
 - Often, people will struggle with our efforts to be kind to them.
 - There is a sense in which those who would be kind must demonstrate their determination to be present
- Random acts of kindness
 - More, excel: Determined acts of kindness

Responsive

And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

Ruth 1:18



- Kindness is responsive, striving to meet the needs of others
 - What is the difference between Orpah and Ruth?
 - Don't need to make out that Orpah was bad, or less than, Ruth.
 - She didn't want to depart from Naomi immediately (1:10)
 - She wept about leaving
 - Kissed Naomi when leaving

Responsive

And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

Ruth 1:18



- So why did Ruth stay? Kindness
 - Naomi had already lost her husbands and sons.
 - If Ruth departed, then she would return to Bethlehem alone.

Responsive

And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

Ruth 1:18



- And Naomi is presented to us as an older woman, in need of care
 - 1 Timothy 5:4 (ESV) 4 But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God.
 - 1 Timothy 5:16 If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are truly widows.

Responsive

And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

Ruth 1:18



- Is Ruth just “doing her duty” or is this deeper?
- Consider the sacrifice Ruth is making: leaving her people and her gods
- Ruth chooses kindness
 - Not that it’s easy, or required
 -

Considerate

Let me go to the field and glean
Ruth 2:2



- Kindness is Considerate

- Ruth 2:2 And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, “Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor.” And she said to her, “Go, my daughter.”
 - Ruth includes Naomi in decisions that need to be made.

Considerate



Let me go to the field and glean
Ruth 2:2

Please let me glean and gather
Ruth 2:7

- Ruth 2:7 She said, ‘Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers.’ So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest.”
 - Requests permission before gleaning

Considerate



Let me go to the field and glean
Ruth 2:2

Please let me glean and gather
Ruth 2:7

Gave her what food she had left over
Ruth 2:18

- Ruth 2:14 And at mealtime Boaz said to her, “Come here and eat some bread and dip your morsel in the wine.” So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed to her roasted grain. And she ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over.
 - Ruth 2:18 And she took it up and went into the city. Her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. She also brought out and gave her what food she had left over after being satisfied.
 - Saves food for Naomi

Considerate



Let me go to the field and glean
Ruth 2:2

Please let me glean and gather
Ruth 2:7

Gave her what food she had left over
Ruth 2:18

- Sometimes kindness is demonstrated in the little things we do for each other.
 - Things that help others remember that they are worthy of being included, that they matter too.
 - Kindness is not just doing, it's listening.
 - Kindness is inclusive and mindful.

A Blessing



May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich.

Ruth 3:10

- Kindness is a blessing in the lives of others
- Ruth 3:6-11 — So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had commanded her. 7 And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then she came softly and uncovered his feet and lay down. 8 At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet! 9 He said, “Who are you?” And she answered, “I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer.”

A Blessing



May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich.

Ruth 3:10

- 10 And he said, “May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich. 11 And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you ask, for all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman.

A Blessing



May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich.

Ruth 3:10

- This last kindness greater than the first
 - What is the first kindness?
 - Earlier he had spoken of Ruth's kindness to Naomi
 - Ruth 2:11-12: But Boaz answered her, "All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. 12 The LORD repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!"

A Blessing



May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich.

Ruth 3:10

- If so, then all extraordinary things Ruth has done for Naomi, Boaz sees this request for marriage and being a redeemer as being greater.
- Ruth could have chosen other men, apparently: younger men than Boaz
- The kindness you show is going to be surprising and unexpected at times.
 - It is meaningful in the lives of others

A Blessing



May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich.

Ruth 3:10

- Did Jehovah bless Ruth for her kindness?
 - Marriage
 - Child
 - Book in the Bible
 - David
 - Jesus



- Kindness is godlike
- Kindness is devoted
- Kindness is determined
- Kindness is responsive
- Kindness is considerate
- Kindness is a blessing



- Who do you need to show kindness to today?
 - They may not be who you think they are.
 - Who is struggling, and needs help?
 - Who tells you they don't need help?
 - Who says things are fine?
 - (Not encouraging you to be a busybody. A busybody isn't kind).
- Who needs your kindness now?

We implore you
on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Call to Action

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Kindness — Ruth

The Book of Ruth

Synopsis: Ruth teaches us about kindness and the many aspects of kindness. Kindness is godlike; devoted; determined; responsive; considerate; and a blessing.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”