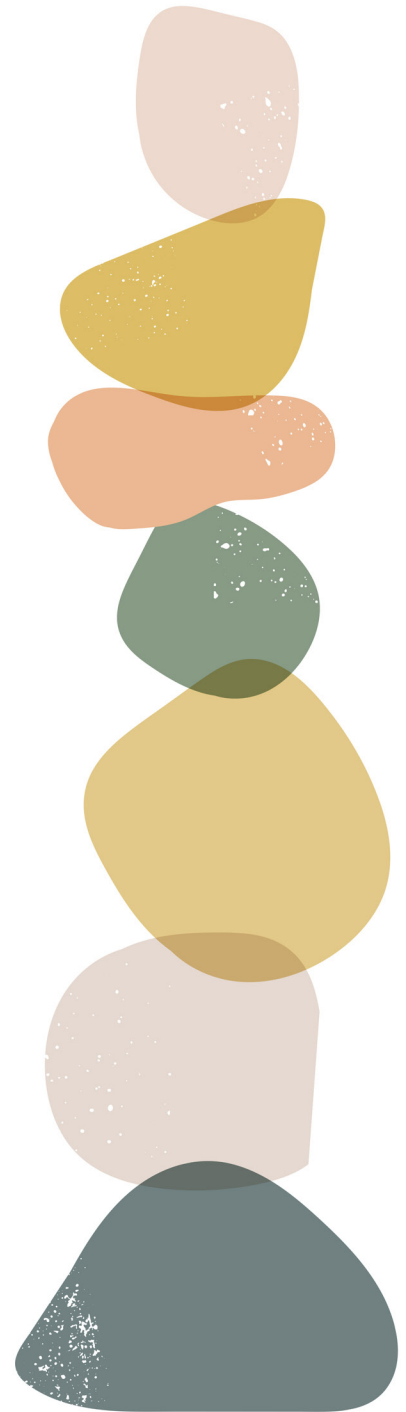


the simple difference

DISCUSSION GUIDE

CHAPTER ONE & CHAPTER TWO

1. We all want to be kind, but it's not enough to pattern our lives after good people because the expression of authentic, love-driven kindness will look different for each of us. But Jesus is both the answer to "why kindness" and our model for living out simple, radical love. What do you know about Jesus' kindness?
2. Seeing beyond ourselves to see people as individuals God loves requires us to move outside our own comfort and convenience. How might this look in your everyday life?
3. Four of the most common and intertwined barriers that stand in the way of our willingness to show kindness to others are awkwardness, inconvenience, lack of compassion, and snap judgments. Which of those would you say you struggle with the most?
4. Choosing to love requires realizing we all belong to each other because we all belong to God. Kindness means speaking up, stepping in, showing love even (or especially) when others choose not to. Have you ever experienced a situation in which nobody was stepping up or speaking up? If so, was there anything you did or wish you would have done differently?

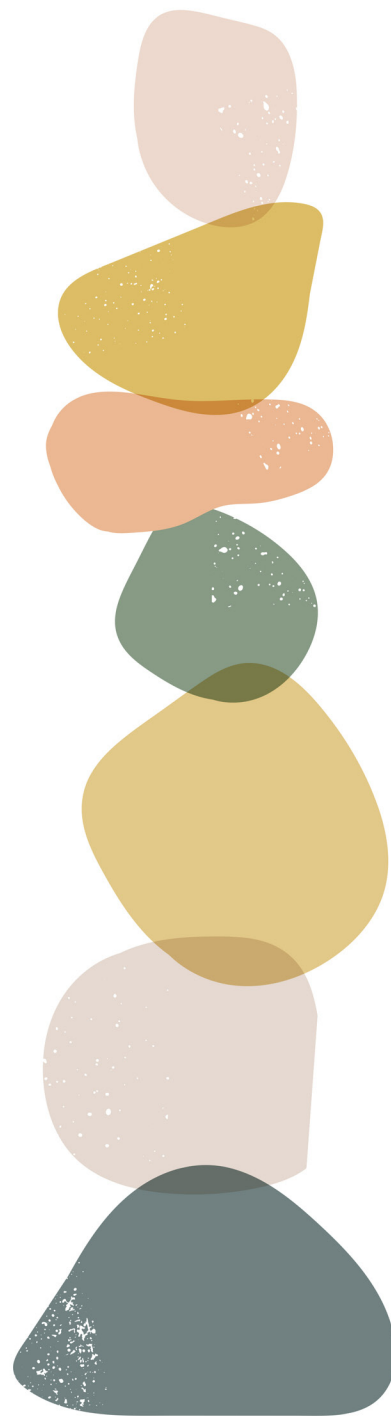


CHAPTER THREE & CHAPTER FOUR

1. Simple words of encouragement are the uncomplicated gift we can give without cost or limit. Has someone ever spoken words that helped you when you were feeling down or discouraged?
2. Sometimes we try to make being a difference-maker complicated. We think it takes a lot of time or special skills or more money than we have to give. But no one is disqualified from being an encourager! What are some simple things you can say to let someone know you see them?
3. Prayer is not a last resort; it's our best first response. We don't pray because there's nothing else we can do. We pray because that's exactly the most powerful thing we can do. How did the chapter on prayer change your perspective?
4. Becky shares the power of listening well and praying boldly. Has anyone ever stopped and prayed for you in the moment? How did that make you feel? This week, how can you risk feeling awkward for the sake of strengthening someone's faith?

CHAPTER FIVE & CHAPTER SIX

1. "The people whom we see the most or have known the longest often get the short end of the kindness stick." Many times, it's not about them, it's about us. On page 87, Becky lists possible kindness blockers. Which of those resonate with you?
2. "Perhaps how we treat people at home *is* how we leave our most important mark. Seeing the discrepancy in how we're living and how we want to live is the first step toward making a change." Read the 1 Corinthians 13 definition of love on page 91 aloud. What spoke to your heart in that passage?
3. Crisis comes in all sorts of sizes, shapes, and situations. Showing up in any sort of loving way makes a difference. What simple acts of kindness from page 110 would you like to challenge yourself to do this week? Or share your own ideas for loving well in hard times.
4. In order to live the big impact of small kindness, we have to pay attention, both to the people around us and the Spirit within us. How do we do this?

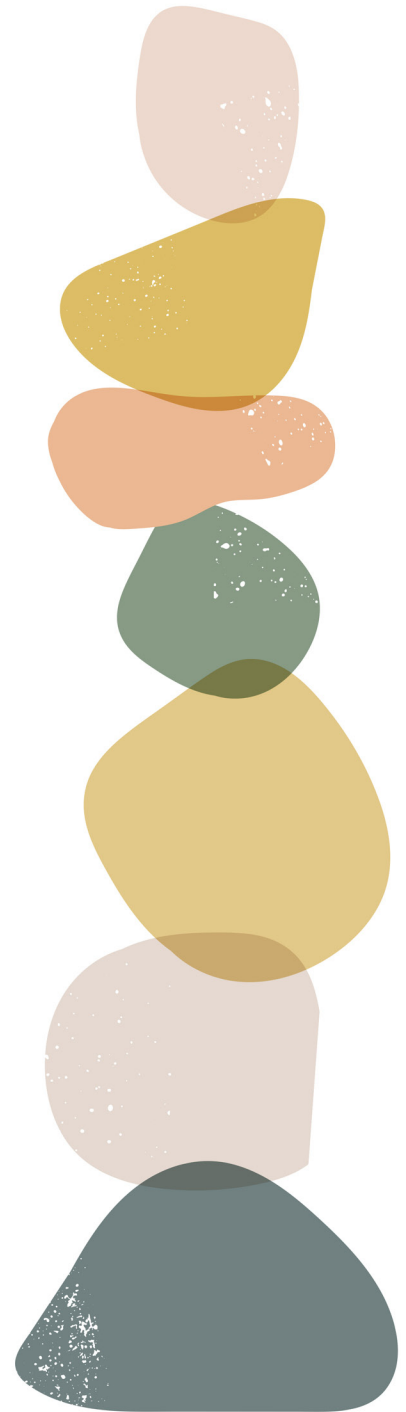


CHAPTER SEVEN & CHAPTER EIGHT

1. Undeserved kindness. That's the undercurrent of God's great story of redeeming His people. He did what He did not have to do for the sake of love. Do you remember when you fully grasped the weight of your sin and the kindness of Jesus's sacrifice? How does remembering His love for you help you to be kind to others?
2. Have you experienced or witnessed an act of extravagant or undeserved kindness? If so, share about that experience. What impact did that make on you?
3. What does "*be where your feet are*" mean to you? What keeps you from being fully engaged in the present moment?
4. Which strategy from pages 131-132 do you need to incorporate in your life and why?

CHAPTER NINE & CHAPTER TEN

1. Single-incident kindness isn't the only way to live the simple difference. Continual and repeated kindness creates an ongoing impact. Showing up more than once, being consistent with your love, and investing in others is also what Jesus did. What does that type of kindness look like in your life?
2. In today's culture, bigger often looks better. But, in God's creation, intimate looks the best. How can we live out the simple difference for the long haul?
3. The Bible talks about childlike faith and Becky talks about childlike kindness. As we become adults, what gets in the way of our childlike kindness?
4. What did you take away from the stories of kind kids in chapter ten? How can you put on greater kindness, compassion, and welcome this week?



CHAPTER ELEVEN & CHAPTER TWELVE

1. Do you ever feel overwhelmed by the world's problems or like you don't have the resources or skills to make a meaningful difference? What would happen if you were honest with God about your doubts?
2. God doesn't expect us to give something we don't have. He invites us to give what we do have. What not-enough can you offer and trust God to multiply?
3. What if the display of God's power in our lives is directly related to acknowledging our need for Him? How will you take a step back to see how much you need for Him before offering your pebble?
4. Becky ends the book with, "Let's be people who acknowledge our great need for God, so through our lives His greatness can be seen." What one thing spoke the loudest to you in *The Simple Difference*? How has your daily life or perspective changed during the course of this book?



IF YOU LOVED THIS BOOK, you'll also love Becky Keife's companion Bible study, *Courageous Kindness: Live the Simple Difference Right Where You Are*. Find it wherever books are sold and get your small group resources at bethesimpledifference.com.

