VBS – The Fruit of the Spirit: Kindness and Goodness  
Galatians 5:22

I. Is it the fruit of the flesh, or the fruit of the Spirit we desire? (Mark 10:17-22; Matthew 19:16)  
a. The world focuses on the flesh. (Ephesians 2:8-9)  
b. But we need to change our hearts.  
   i. What was preventing this rich young ruler from following Jesus? His possessions.  
   ii. What was the demand? Follow me (A change of heart).  
   iii. What was the resulting work of that change of heart? Selling possessions.  
c. A purer heart will result in a purer life. (Matthew 6:24; 5:8; I Peter 1:22-23, 2:1-2)

II. What kind of a person are you?  
a. A Good, Kind person? – Has the works, but not the heart. (Matthew 23:27-28; Romans 12:9)  
b. A “Christian” person? – Has the heart, but not the works. (John 12:3-6; Matthew 21:28-32; 9:37)  
c. A Good, Kind, Christian person? – Has the works and the heart. (James 2:18)

III. What is our standard of Goodness? Of Kindness?  
a. Origin – In heaven, with God. (James 1:17)  
b. Presence – God’s goodness can be felt. (Psalm 92:15; Exodus 33:19)  
c. Action – God’s goodness is manifested for the things He has done for us, but they originate within His very being. (Titus 3:4,5; Romans 5:8)

IV. What are the traits of a Good, Kind, Christian person?  
a. Strive to imitate God. (I John 4:10-11)  
   i. Show it before it is due. (Matthew 7:12)  
   ii. Show it when it isn’t due. (Romans 12:17-21)  
b. Full of mercy. (Matthew 9:13)

V. Final Thoughts  
a. Kindness is not always warm and fuzzy.  
   i. Jesus’s kindness had a purpose in mind. (John 2:14-16; Matthew 23; Mark 10:21)  
b. The whole point of living by the Spirit, is to become more like God.  
   i. Start with our actions. (3 John 11)  
   ii. Quickly add your heart (mind). (Philippians 4:8)  
   iii. Work toward maturity. (I Peter 2)  
c. Stay the course. (Galatians 6:8-10)  
d. Remember it is our purpose. (Ephesians 2:10)