



## Firm Center, Soft Edges

Presenter: Mike Mahon

## Talk It Over

For The Verde Valley

Week 2:

“Firm Center, Soft Edges”

What is kindness?

I. Kindness is...

Having a \_\_\_\_\_ center and \_\_\_\_\_ edges.

II. Kindness is...

Being \_\_\_\_\_.

III. Kindness is...

Loving people who are \_\_\_\_\_.

### SMALL TALK

1. Who did you interact with this week that holds a viewpoint that is contradictory to a viewpoint that you hold? If someone had observed that conversation or interaction, how would they describe your demeanor and attitude during that interaction?

### VIEWPOINT

2. **Read Micah 6:6-8.** Talk for a little bit about what you believe God means when he says that the listener is to “act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.” What does it look like today for us to be characterized by these things?
3. **Read John 4:7-10.** What are some of the reasons that the woman was surprised that Jesus would interact with her?

### GETTING PERSONAL

4. Do you find that you lean more toward the firm center that Mike talked about or do you lean more toward the soft edges described? Why do you think that is?
5. What are the benefits of being characterized primarily by having a firm center? What could the problems be if you interact with people primarily from that place?
6. What are the benefits of being characterized primarily by having soft edges? What could the problems be if you interact with people primarily from that place?
7. What would it take for you to move closer to a balance between those two ends of the spectrum? In other words, if you more naturally tend toward a firm center, how can you begin to intentionally develop softer edges when you interact with the people around you and especially those who are far from God?
8. Who is asking the question of you...“How is it that you, a Christian, would be talking to a person like me?” Are you regularly interacting with anyone that might be surprised that you would talk to them? Are you regularly interacting with anyone who might be surprised that you treat them in a way that is unexpectedly kind? If you can't come up with anyone, do you think that points to an area you might need to grow in?

### MAKING PROGRESS

9. We believe that our mission as a church is to help people move from wherever they are, to where God wants them to be. What do you think it looks like for you to personally grow in the kindness that you show to people who are still far from God?

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