**Stop Being Nice**

January 6-27

Have you ever put on a fake smile or been “politically correct” to avoid conflict? We’ve all been in that moment when a person was “being nice” to us, but it didn’t feel nice. As we begin the new year, we’re going to commit to going deeper than simply being nice to one another.

Theme verse: Galatians 5:22-23

**Week 1: Be Kind**

Ephesians 4:29-32

Being nice and being kind are two totally different things. Being nice comes across on the surface, but kindness comes out of the depths of our hearts. To be kind is a reflection of God’s action.

**Week 2: Be Joyful**

John 15:1-11

There is a big difference between happiness and joy. Happiness tends to happen to us, while joy is a choice we make and a way of being in the world. While happiness is based on circumstances; joy is an assurance of God with us.

**Week 3: Be Peaceful**

Philippians 4:4-9

Peace is not the absence of conflict. Biblical peace stems from shalom, finding harmony between people. We are called to be peacemakers in a divided world. Peace is an action which requires us to week justice and harmony.

Martin Luther King weekend.

**Week 4: Be Loving**

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Love sounds like a mushy, fluffy word; but real love is anything but touchy-feely. While the Bible’s famous passage about love (1 Corinthians 13) may be read often at weddings, the writer was really trying to capture the depth and struggle to love fully. We’ll wrap up “Stop Being Nice” by doing the hard work of really loving others.