

The Golden Rule

PRESCHOOL LESSON



Theme: Love one another – even your enemies.

Scripture: Luke 6:27-38

Memory Verse: "Do to others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:31

Get Ready: Click [here](#) to get your complete supply list for this lesson.

The Children's Sermon

You'll Need:

- Items for a king or queen's costume, such as a crown, a staff, or a robe
- An armchair
- Stickers - 1 per child

Do This:

SAY: (Put on the royal costume and sit in the arm chair.) **What do I look like to you?**

(Pause for preschoolers to identify that you are a king or a queen.) **That's right.**

Pretend I'm the ruler. And what does a ruler do? (Pause for responses.)

A ruler makes rules. Only, I'm trying to decide between two rules. Will you help me choose the most important rule for our kingdom?

Here are my ideas: Should our number one rule be that no one can use their left foot, even if they are walking? Or should it be that no walking is allowed, only crawling, but you must use your elbows and knees to crawl?

Maybe we should try each rule before we vote. (Lead kids in trying the rules for about 30 seconds each, and then have kids vote for the rule. After the vote, invite children to come to you or another leader using the rule to receive a sticker.)

Great job following my new rule. It was a fun rule, but it's not really an important rule. But there is one really important rule Jesus shared in the Bible. Many people call it "The Golden Rule." (Invite kids to share whether they know this rule.)

Jesus taught us that loving one another, even people we don't get along with, is really important. And one way we do that is to treat others how we want to be treated. So if we want others to share with us, we share, too. Or if we want others to be kind to us, we are kind to others. We'll learn more about that today.

PRAY: Dear God, we want to treat others with love as Jesus taught us to do. Help us to do that well. In Jesus' name, amen.

Bible Memory Verse

"Do to others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:31

Do This:

Have preschoolers stand in pairs, side-by-side. Help them learn the Bible verse using these words and motions:

- **“Do to others...** (Wag finger.)
- **As you would have them...** (Turn to face your partner.)
- **Do to you.”** (Smile and shake hands.)
- Repeat, as time allows.

ASK:

- **What is one thing another person does for you that makes you happy?**

SAY: Jesus teaches us to love others by doing for them what we’d like for them to do for us. Let’s start practicing that today.

Bible Interactive Experience

You’ll Need:

- **Small prizes or candy - 2 per child**
- **Classroom toys that require turn-taking**
- **A Bible**

Do This:

SAY: (Gather children in the center of your room.) **Jesus tells us to love one another, even people we don’t usually get along with, but I wonder what that means. Let’s see what Jesus said about it.** (Read aloud Luke 6:27-28, and then invite kids to share what they think it means.)

Jesus said to be kind and pray for people, even if they aren't very kind to us. Let's play a game to help us think about that. (Explain that you'll give kids two choices. You'll indicate which wall each choice represents, and they'll vote for what they would want by moving to the corresponding wall.)

Think about how you want someone to act toward you. Would you rather someone say mean words or say kind, happy words to you? (Have kids choose their preference by moving to one wall or another.)

The choice is easy. We'd want someone to be kind to us. So that means to love someone else, we do the same thing we'd want—which is to be kind. (Invite children to go say something kind to two other children.)

Let's see what else Jesus said. (Read aloud Luke 6:30-31, and then invite kids to share what they think it means.)

Jesus told us to be good sharers. When you're playing, would you rather someone share toys and special treats—or grab them from your hands? (Indicate which wall represents which idea, and then have kids vote.)

The choice is easy. We don't like for others to grab stuff out of our hands, so we won't do that to others, either. Let's practice being good sharers. (Give each child a couple prizes or candy, and invite them to kindly share one of theirs with someone else.)

Let's look at one more example of what Jesus said. (Read aloud Luke 6:32-36.)

Jesus said be good to others, share with them, and take turns.

Let's practice being good sharers and taking turns for the last few minutes of our lesson. (Allow about five minutes for children to share the classroom toys.)

ASK:

- **What was it like to play with someone who treated you how you want to be treated?**

- How did it make you feel to be kind and share with others?

SAY: It feels good to play with others in the way that Jesus tells us. To love others well, we treat them how we want to be treated: with kindness, goodness, and as good sharers.

The Golden Rule

You'll Need:

- ["The Golden Rule"](#) video lesson
- Something to play the video

Do This:

Show the video.

ASK:

- Tell about a time someone teased you and it made you feel bad.
- Why do you think Terry was nice to Thumper McGee, even though Thumper had been mean to him in school?

Love in a Snack

You'll Need:

- Two or three snacks that come in small pieces, such as cereal
- Paper plates

Do This:

Follow these steps to make the snacks:

- Have kids clean their hands.
- Show kids the choices.
- Form pairs.
- Explain to kids that they'll get to choose what snack they want, but someone else will get it for them.
- Invite the children in each pair to ask their partners what snack they want.
- Have each child retrieve the snack his or her partner wants on a plate.
- Remind children that Jesus said to love one another, and explain that by getting the snack for their friend, that is a way to love that person.
- Show kids how to arrange the snacks in the shape of a heart, and then encourage them to show off the hearts to their partners and exchange the snacks they retrieved for one another.
- Enjoy.

ASK:

- **Explain whether it was easy or hard for you to share the snack with your partner instead of eating it yourself?**
- **Why do you think Jesus wants you to love others, whether it's easy or hard?**

SAY: Jesus tells us to love one another, but it's not always easy when we want something for ourselves or when the other person isn't being very nice to us. But even when it is hard, we want to do it because we know that's how we'd want to be treated.

Hopscotch Game

You'll Need:

- A stone
- Masking tape

Get Ready: Use the masking tape to make a Hopscotch board on the floor.

Do This:

SAY: Today we're learning that loving someone well means treating them how we'd like to be treated.

ASK:

- What does loving someone well mean to you?

SAY: One way we love others well is to encourage them and cheer them on when they're doing something hard. So let's do our best to encourage one another as we all try this new game of Hopscotch.

Follow these steps to play Hopscotch:

- Demonstrate for children how to jump up and down the board.
- Have each child take at least one turn, reminding children to love their classmate by cheering him or her on.
- Show kids the stone and explain that you'll follow the hopscotch board to the rock and retrieve it, and then return.
- Let each child take a turn playing in this way.

- Repeat as time allows.

ASK:

- **What was it like to be loved by your classmates in this way?**

SAY: When others treat us how we want to be treated, it reminds us why we want to do the same for them. But Jesus says not to do this only with our friends. He says to do it with everyone!

A Gift to My Enemy

You'll Need:

- ["A Gift for You"](#) handout - 1 per child
- Crayons
- Tape
- Small prizes, such as mini erasers - 1 per child
- Child-safe scissors

Do This:

To make the craft, have kids follow these steps:

- Give each child a handout.
- Read aloud the message on the handout.
- Have kids cut apart the four Giving Cards.
- Remind children that Jesus tells us to treat others how we want to be treated, and that can mean being generous with someone who's not a friend.

- Invite children to think of someone who they have not gotten along with recently.
- Encourage children to color in one of the Giving Cards, choose a prize for the child they identified, and tape it to the Giving Card.

SAY: This week you'll give this special gift to the person you shared about.

Sharing special gifts willingly with others, even when they aren't our friends, is a great way to love how Jesus teaches us to love. Take home your three other giving cards and think of three more people you could give them to.

Prayers for My Enemy

You'll Need:

- The kids' "A Gift for You" crafts

Do This:

SAY: Today we're learning to love our friends and our enemies like Jesus taught us to do. And we made a special gift for someone we aren't necessarily friends with because we know it's a way to show love to that person. Let's hold the gifts we made and pray for these people now. (Lead preschoolers in praying for the people they will be giving the gifts to.)

PRAY: Dear God, help us to treat others how we want to be treated. In Jesus' name, amen.

Time to Praise God

You'll Need:

- Song: "Love One Another"
[Words and Music \(pdf\)](#)
- Song: "Jesus Loves the Little Children"
[Words and Music \(pdf\)](#)

SAY: Today we learned to love everyone, whether they're our best friend...or not so much. And we learned that we can do that when we treat others how we want to be treated. Let's sing about love now.

Lead children in singing "Love One Another" and "Jesus Loves the Little Children."

If You Have Extra Time...

- [Coloring Page](#)

Complete Supply List:

- Items for a king or queen's costume, such as a crown, a staff, or a robe
- An armchair
- Stickers - 1 per child
- Small prizes or candy - 2 per child
- Classroom toys that require turn-taking
- A Bible

- “The Golden Rule” video lesson
- Something to play the video
- Two or three snacks that come in small pieces, such as cereal
- Paper plates
- A stone
- Masking tape
- “A Gift for You” handout - 1 per child
- Crayons
- Tape
- Small prizes, such as mini erasers - 1 per child
- Child-safe scissors
- The kids’ “A Gift for You” crafts

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The Golden Rule

AT HOME LESSON

Theme: Love one another – even your enemies.

Scripture: Luke 6:27-38

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The Children’s Sermon

You’ll Need:

- **Items for a king or queen’s costume, such as a crown, a staff, or a robe**
- **An armchair**

Do This:

SAY: (Put on the royal costume and sit in the arm chair.) **What do I look like to you?**

(Pause for kids to identify that you are a king or a queen.) **That's right. Pretend I'm the ruler. And what does a ruler do?** (Pause for responses.)

A ruler makes rules. Only, I think I need some help with the rules. So let me ask you...

ASK:

- **If you were ruler, what would your number one rule be, and why?** (Have children take turns holding a royal object from your costume when they share. If time allows, invite them to take turns on the throne.)

Those were some interesting rules you all came up with. Today we're reading in the Bible about something Jesus, our King, said was important to do. Many people call this "The Golden Rule." (Invite kids to share if they know what it is.)

Jesus taught that loving one another, even people we don't get along with is really important. And one way we do that is to treat others how we want to be treated. So if we want others to welcome us when we're new to their school, then we do that for others. Or if we want others to be kind to us, we are kind to others. We'll learn more about that today.

PRAY: Dear God, we want to treat others with love as Jesus taught us to do. Help us to do that well. In Jesus' name, amen.

Bible Memory Verse

“Do to others as you would have them do to you.” Luke 6:31

Do This:

SAY: Even though there are many ways we can treat others how we want to be treated, I can think of three main ways kids can do that: by caring for others when they're sick or sad, by welcoming others and not excluding them, and by being kind and encouraging. So I thought of a few ways to remind us of these as we practice our verse together.

Have kids stand in a circle, and practice the verse in this way:

- Have them repeat the full verse after you.
- Then have kids turn to the right so everyone is facing someone's back. Have everyone give the person in front of them a pat on the back, as they repeat the verse together.
- Explain this is a reminder to care for others.
- Next, have kids say the verse and give a high-five to as many other kids as possible in one minute.
- Explain this is a reminder to welcome everyone.
- Finally, have kids reform their circle. Smile and say the verse to someone, while making eye contact. That child will smile and make eye contact with another child in the circle and say the verse. Kids will continue to “pass” the verse in this way until everyone has said it at least once.
- Explain this is a reminder to be kind and encouraging to everyone.
- Repeat, as time allows.

ASK:

- Why do you think Jesus tells us to do this?

SAY: Jesus teaches us to love others in this way for many reasons, but most of all He knows it's what's best for us and others. Let's start practicing that today.

The Golden Rule

You'll Need:

- ["The Golden Rule"](#) video lesson
- Something to play the video

Do This:

Show the video.

ASK:

- Explain whether you think it was easy or hard for Terry to be kind to Thumper McGee?
- What surprised you about this video and why?

Kind Licorice

You'll Need:

- Paper plates - 1 per child
- Licorice rope candy
- Paper slips
- Pencils

- **A bowl**

Do This:

Follow these steps to make the snacks:

- Have kids clean their hands.
- Remind kids how important kindness is—and how that's how they want to be treated.
- Have each child write their name on a paper slip and fold it up.
- Have kids put their names in the bowl.
- Mix up the name, and have kids each choose one.
- If kids choose their own name, have them try again.
- Have kids use the licorice rope candies to write a kind word about the person whose name they pulled. Encourage kids to be genuine and choose a word that has meaning for the person (not just "nice").
- Allow time, when everyone is done, have each person present the word to the receiver.
- Enjoy.

SAY: Treating others with kindness shows them honor, and that is how we'd want to be treated. So let's find more ways to be kind to others this week.

Prayers for My Enemy

Do This:

SAY: Today we're learning to love our friends and our enemies. So often when we pray, we pray only for our friends; so today, let's pray for people who we don't get along with so well. Take a moment now to think of one or two people you might pray for that fit this description, and then we'll pray. (Allow a moment for kids to think, and then start them out in prayer. Allow about a minute for the children to pray silent prayers for people they struggle to get along with.)

PRAY: Dear God, help us to treat others how we want to be treated—even our enemies. In Jesus' name, amen.

Time to Praise God

You'll Need:

- Song: "Love One Another"
[Words and Music \(pdf\)](#)
- Song: "Jesus Loves the Little Children"
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SAY: Today we learned to love everyone, whether they're our best friend...or not so much. And we learned that we can do that when we treat others how we want to be treated. Let's sing about love now.

Lead children in singing "Love One Another" and "Jesus Loves the Little Children."

Complete Supply List:

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