

The Golden Rule

Bible Verse

Teach me your way, LORD, so that I can walk in your truth. Psalm 86:11

Did You Know?

Jesus was raised in the Jewish faith. After the story of his birth, the only story of Jesus' childhood occurred in the temple where he was found listening to and asking questions of the teachers. When Jesus became an adult and began his teaching ministry, he drew from the religious learning of his younger years. We see evidence of this with Jesus' teaching that we refer to as the Golden Rule. About 20 years before Jesus, the rabbi Hillel was challenged by a Gentile to teach him the whole law while he stood on one foot. Hillel replied, "Do not do unto others what you would not have others do to you." Interestingly, similar teachings are found in other faiths as well. When Jesus preached the Golden Rule, he reframed this Jewish teaching in a positive form, "Therefore, you should treat people in the same way that you want people to treat you; this is the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 7:12). One result of Jesus' reframing of the teaching is that it requires action on our part. It is not enough for us not to treat others badly so that we will not be treated badly. No, we must do to others. We must seek out ways to treat others with loving care and compassion, as that is how we would like them to treat us. Living out the Golden Rule requires conscious effort on our part.

The Golden Rule sums up many of Jesus' teachings about how we are to treat one another. "You must love your neighbor as you love yourself" (Matthew 22:39). We want to be loved. In Matthew 25:35-40, Jesus taught that we are to feed the hungry, provide drink for the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, and care for the sick. We would like to be reassured of the care of others when we experience any of those situations. In Matthew 18:21-22, Jesus told Peter that he was to forgive another not seven times, but 77 times. We would like others to forgive us.

The Golden Rule is short and simple enough for children to easily memorize. You can help your children realize how this teaching can apply to their lives. Children know how they would like to be treated. This is a great lesson to reinforce the message that the words we read in the Bible apply to our lives.

Bible Story

Matthew 7:12

Anchor Point

Jesus teaches us how
God wants us to live.

Your Lesson

JUMP IN:

- Welcome
- Kids Stuff: Golden-Rule Book
- Exploration Station: Class Covenant

DIVE DEEPER:

- Bible Story Time
- Experience the Story: The Golden Rule
- Look It Up!
- My Thoughts

GROW STRONGER:

- Life Connection: The Golden Rule
- Learn & Serve with the Deep Blue Kids: Kindness Connection
- Craft Activity: God's Gold Medal
- Spiritual Practice: Self-Compassion

WORSHIP:

- Gather, Sing, and Sign
- Praise and Reflect





JUMP IN!

The following activities may be done in learning centers as the children arrive or may be done with the entire group.

WELCOME

Supplies: **Class Stuff**—pp. 16-17, **CD, DVD (optional)**, CD player, DVD player (optional), television (optional), markers, offering basket, tape



Continue to display Attendance Chart and obtain offering basket.

- Play “Jesus, Teach Me” and greet each child as they arrive.
- Let children mark their attendance and place their offerings in the basket.

KIDS STUFF: GOLDEN-RULE BOOK

Supplies: **Kids Stuff**—pp. 7-8, pencils, scissors, staplers

- Distribute Golden-Rule Book. Let children cut out and assemble the book.
- Encourage children to use their book for ideas of how to be kind toward others.

ASK: What are more ways you could be kind to others?



EXPLORATION STATION: CLASS COVENANT

Supplies: crayons or markers, poster paper (large), tape

SAY: Today’s Bible story is about treating others as you want to be treated.

ASK: How do you want to be treated?

- Invite children to think of ways they can be respectful of one another in the classroom.
- On the poster, write a list of class expectations that everyone can abide to, such as listening to others, respecting our friends, and so forth.
- Hang the class covenant in the classroom and use it as a reminder of the ways you want to treat others.

DIVE DEEPER

BIBLE STORY TIME

Supplies: **DVD**, DVD player, television

- Place DVD in the player and cue Session 3, then watch video.

ASK: What did Jesus tell us to do? How do we treat others the way we want to be treated? How can we show kindness to others?

EXPERIENCE THE STORY: THE GOLDEN RULE

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles; Bible Stories & Stuff—Session 3, p. 2

- Direct children to locate in their Bibles Matthew 7:12, then read the Scripture aloud.
- Assign the seven parts and present the story. Let class read for All.

LOOK IT UP!

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (top), pencils

SAY: The Law of the Prophets refers to the Jewish teachings found in the Old Testament. Let's read one of the laws that is similar to Jesus' words.

- Invite children to locate in their Bibles Leviticus 19:18.
- What does this law teach us?

MY THOUGHTS

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (bottom), pencils

SAY: Sometimes treating people with kindness can be tough.

ASK: How do you show kindness? What do you do when someone is not kind to you?

- Invite children to journal their responses.

GROW STRONGER

LIFE CONNECTION: THE GOLDEN RULE

Supplies: Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 4

SAY: The Golden Rule is a part of many other religious traditions and cultures. Let's learn about this important and special rule.

- Invite children to read Life Connection: The Golden Rule.

LEARN & SERVE WITH THE DEEP BLUE KIDS: KINDNESS CONNECTION

Supplies: ball of yarn

- Invite children to sit in a circle.

SAY: In the video, Indie does not like Speedy playing with her toys. She has to learn how to offer kindness and share.

ASK: What other ways can you show kindness?

- Hold the starting end of the yarn. Continue holding, while you pass the yarn to a child. Invite the child to share a way they can show kindness.
- Then invite the child to hold onto their piece of the yarn and pass the rest to another friend.

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≈ TIP ≈

Be sure you do not pass the yarn to the person sitting directly next to you.

- Continue passing the yarn until everyone has had a chance to share. When you are finished, you should have a web of yarn across the circle.

SAY: Look at all the ways we can show kindness. Kindness connects us to each other and helps spread God's love!

- Carefully rewind yarn.

CRAFT ACTIVITY: GOD'S GOLD MEDAL

Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 24, card stock, crayons or markers (yellow, gold), paper punches, scissors, string or yarn, tape



Photocopy God's Gold Medal on card stock, one for each child.

SAY: When you win a gold medal, it typically represents first place. But this gold medal reminds us to put others first. This is God's gold medal.

- Distribute God's Gold Medal.
- Invite children to follow the directions and create the medal.
- Allow them to attach and wear their medals as a reminder to put others first.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: SELF-COMPASSION

SAY: Today we learned about treating others the way we want to be treated, but we also have to be kind to ourselves.

ASK: What does it mean to be kind to yourself?

SAY: This week, look in the mirror and give yourself a compliment. Say, "I am a loved child of God, and I am important." Remember, God loves you and wants you to love yourself too!

WORSHIP

GATHER, SING, AND SIGN

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—Songbooks, Class Stuff—p. 27, Leader Guide—p. 85, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), tape, television (optional)



Continue to display Poster: Unit 1 Bible Verse. Review the Unit 1 Bible verse American Sign Language, using page 85 as a guide. Photocopy that page for children.

- Distribute songbooks. Play the song "Jesus, Teach Me" one time, letting children follow along. Then sing the song together. Set aside songbooks to collect later.
- Teach children the Unit 1 Bible verse sign language, then say and sign the verse.

PRAISE AND REFLECT

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bible; Class Stuff—pp. 14 & 19, 27; envelope of poster pieces; tape

 Continue to display Poster: Unit 1 Bible Verse. Display on the wall the lighthouse under construction.

SAY: Today we will learn the third part of the Lord's Prayer.

- Read the third part of the prayer.
- Display the poster pieces. Invite a volunteer to place the third piece of the lighthouse on the wall.
- Read the three parts of the Lord's Prayer together.

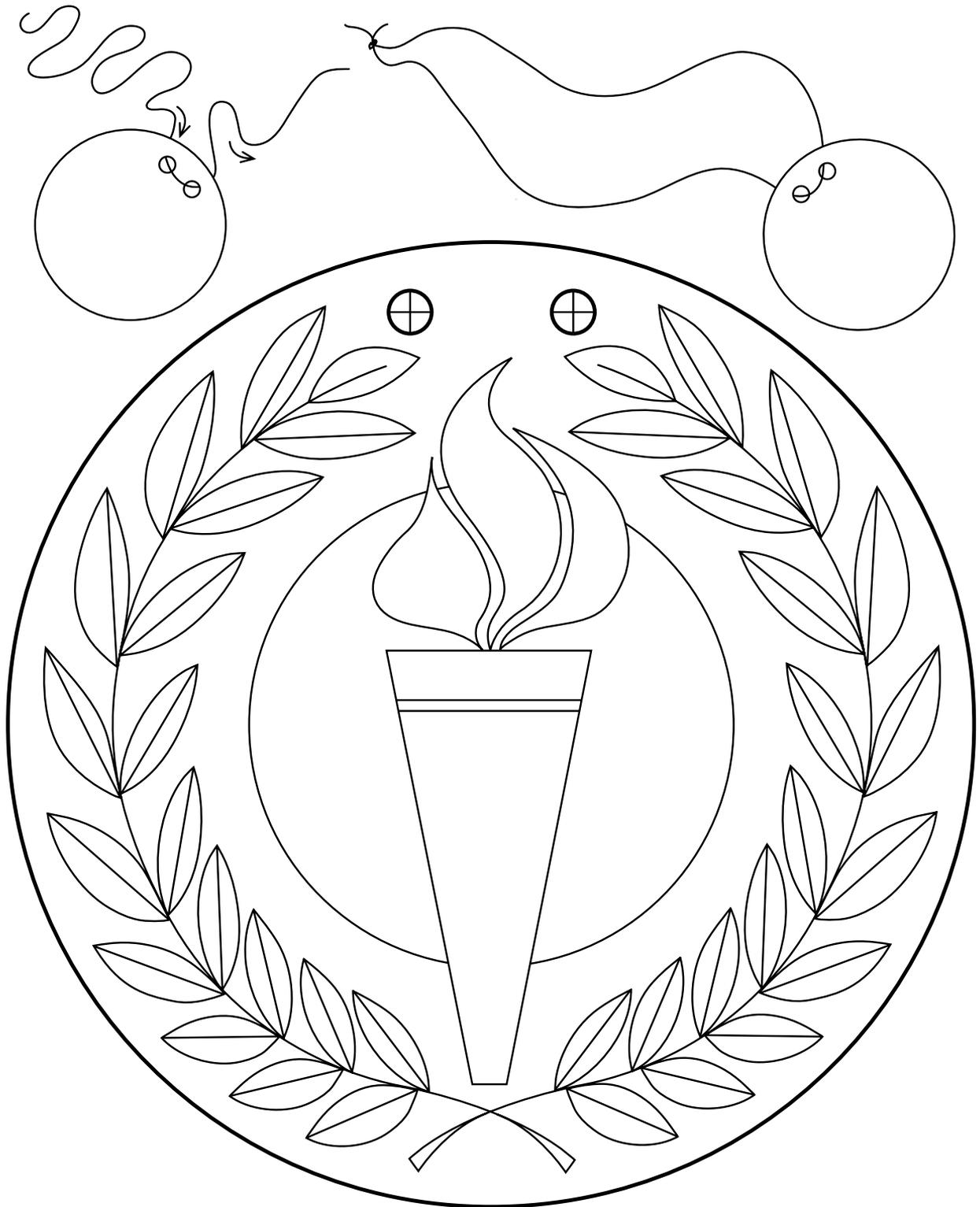
SAY: Great job! Next week we will learn the last part of the prayer. Then we will know all of the Lord's Prayer.

- Invite children to name people or situations they'd like to pray for in the closing prayer. Lift up those joys and concerns at the end of the prayer.

PRAY: Dear God, help us to treat others as they want to be treated. Amen.



Craft Activity: God's Gold Medal



1. Color the medal with yellow and gold crayons or markers.
2. Cut out the medal.
3. Punch out the holes at the top of the medal.
4. String yarn or string through the holes, and tie the ends of the ribbon together.
5. Wear your gold medal.

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