



Younger IK Groups- PreK- 1st grade

April 30, 2025

Bible Story: The Golden Rule- Matthew 7:12; Matthew 18:21-35

Big Idea: Treat others the way you want to be treated.

The Win: Kids who can identify and take their next step of discipleship by embracing a preschooler's physical needs or engaging an elementary kid in things that interest them.

Wednesday Share:

Tonight during Impact Kids, we looked at Matthew 7:12- 8:21-35. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says to treat others the way we want to be treated. This adage is known as the Golden Rule. Later, Jesus illustrates the Golden Rule with a story about a debtor who is forgiven a huge debt but won't forgive a small debt. Use these questions to start a family discussion: What's one thing someone has done for you that meant a lot to you? Do it for someone else!

Leader Devo:

<https://parkwaychurch.tv/blog/2025/04/23/apr-30>

Dig In to Prayer:

Ask God to open your kids' eyes to the love and grace he has treated them with, and pray that seeing how God has treated them will inspire them to treat others likewise.

Quick Tip:

Think back to your childhood. How did Sunday school teachers or school teachers treat you? What stuck with you as positive, loving interactions? negative ones? Thinking about how you liked being treated as a kid—or didn't like being treated—can help you become a better Small Group Leader.

Wednesday Group Schedule

Leaders Arrive: 6:15 PM
Family Dinner: 6:30 PM – 6:50 PM
K-3rd Outside Play: 6:50 PM- 7:20 PM
4th & 5th Small Group: 6:50 PM- 7:30 PM
K-3rd Small Group: 7:25 PM- 8:00 PM
4th & 5th Outside Play: 7:30 PM- 8:00 PM
Dismiss: 8:00 PM- 8:05 PM

Low Energy Game:

Supplies:

- hula hoops (1 for every 5 or 6 kids)
- paper cups (1 for every 5 or 6 kids)
- painter's tape
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep: Use painter's tape to mark an X on the floor for every group of 5 or 6 kids, and place a hula hoop on each X. Position a paper cup upside down a few feet from each X.

Tips: Place the cup close enough to the X so kids will be able to get the hula hoop to the cup but far enough that kids can't easily get the hoop around the cup without help. (You may want to base the distance on kids' age—approximately 1 foot per year.)

Play Without Help

Say: Today we're learning how Jesus taught his friends to treat others the way they want to be treated. We're Jesus' friends, so we want to treat others that way, too! That means we help others who are having a hard time. Let's play a game to help us think about that.

- Form groups of five or six, and help groups line up a few feet behind a cup and sit down.
- Stand on an X while holding a hula hoop. Demonstrate how to roll the hula hoop in the direction of the cup. If it doesn't land over the cup, pick up the hula hoop and place it over the cup to show kids the object of the game.
- On your cue, have the first child in each line run to the X, roll the hula hoop, and try to get it around the cup.
- Whether the hula hoop landed around the cup or not, the child will grab the hula hoop, pass it to the next person in line, and sit down at the end of the line.
- The next child will take the hula hoop to the X and attempt to roll it to the cup. Repeat the process until everyone has had a turn to roll the hula hoop.
- Encourage kids to cheer on their teammates as they wait their turn.

Play With Help

After everyone has had a chance to try, say: Wow, that's pretty hard to do. We need some help! This time, when we try to roll the hula hoop to the cup, a friend will be waiting there to help us.

Ask an adult or teen helper to stand by a cup and be your helper. Roll the hula hoop to your helper, and ask him or her to show kids how to help the hula hoop land over the cup.

- On your cue, have the first child in each line run to the X, pick up the hula hoop again, and try to roll it toward the cup. The next child in line will stand by the cup and help the hula hoop fall over the cup. Leaders can help if needed.
- Then the child who rolled the hula hoop moves to the end of the line while the helper takes the hula hoop to the X to roll it. The next child in line then becomes the helper when the hula hoop is rolled.
- Continue as time allows.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.

Talk About Helping

Say: We needed some help in our game. We all need help sometimes. Share an example of something you need help with, such as finding your way around a new town, baking a cake, or fixing your car.

Ask: • Tell about something you need help doing. Kids may say they need help working a puzzle, getting started on the swings, or learning their letters.

Say: In our game, we were good helpers for our friends. Then they were good helpers for us! Jesus knows it feels good when we get and give help! That's why he told us to treat others the way we want to be treated. Jesus wants all his friends to live the best life and be good friends to each other.

Talk About Video:

Discuss and Watch “The Paper Parable”

Say: We’re learning to treat others the way you want to be treated. It’s something Jesus said that we call the Golden Rule! Jesus also told a story that showed an example of someone who did not follow the Golden Rule. Let’s watch that story.

Watch “The Paper Parable.”

Ask: • What would you do if you owed someone a lot of money and they forgave your debt?

• Why do you think the servant didn’t pass on that gift?

• What bad things can happen to us when we don’t follow the Golden Rule? What can happen to others?

Say: If everyone followed the Golden Rule all the time, we’d have a much better world! God wants us to treat others the way we want to be treated. It’s the way he treated us! Unlike the servant, we can pass on God’s love and kindness.

Deeper Bible:

Supplies

- Bible
- upbeat music
- music player

Talk About It

Say: Jesus told his friends a story about how important it is to forgive. When we hurt someone, we hope they’ll forgive us instead of staying mad at us. We can forgive our friends when they hurt us, too, because we treat others the way we want to be treated. There are lots of ways to show friends we forgive them and want to stay friends. We can give them a hug. Give a willing child a hug. Or they might prefer a high-five. Give a willing child a high-five. Other times a fist bump or a handshake would be fun. Give fist bumps and handshakes to some willing children.

Ask: • What do you like best—a hug, a high-five, a fist bump, or a handshake? Let kids call out their answers.

Say: Not everyone likes to show friendship the same way. Let’s practice some ways to show friends we forgive them and still want to be friends.

Play a Friendly Game

Help kids form groups of five or six.

Say: First, let’s see who wants a hug. When I turn on the music, give the friends in your group a thumbs-up if you want a hug and a thumbs-down if you don’t. Then if you want a hug, give one to some friends who want hugs, too.

Play music for a minute or so, and encourage kids who’d like to give hugs to do so.

Kids who don’t want hugs can wiggle to the music while keeping their thumbs pointed down.

Say: Some people might prefer a handshake. When I turn on the music, if you want a handshake, give your friends a thumbs-up; if not, give a thumbs-down. Then friends who want handshakes can shake hands with each other.

Deeper Bible: cont

Play music for a minute or so, and encourage kids who'd like to shake hands to do so. Kids who don't want handshakes can wiggle to the music while keeping their thumbs pointed down.

Say: Other people might want a high-five. When I turn on the music, give the friends in your group a thumbs-up if you want a high-five and a thumbs-down if you don't. Then if you want a high-five, give one to some friends who want high-fives, too. Play music for a minute or so, and encourage kids who'd like to give high-fives to do so. Kids who don't want high-fives can wiggle to the music while keeping their thumbs pointed down.

Say: Some people like a fist bump best. Show me thumbs-up if you want a fist bump and thumbs-down if you don't. Give kids a chance to show you their answers. When I turn on the music, if you want a fist bump, give one to some friends who want a fist bump, too. Play music for a minute or so, and encourage kids who'd like to give fist bumps to do so. Kids who don't want fist bumps can wiggle to the music while keeping their thumbs pointed down.

If time allows, repeat the process with new actions, such as a smile or a kind word.

Talk About Forgiveness

Say: In our game, if we wanted a hug or a high-five, we gave one to a friend—and we got one, too! We treated our friends the way we wanted to be treated. When friends are unkind to us, we can stay angry and be mean back.

But listen to what the Bible says. **Read aloud Ephesians 4:32.**

Say: We can forgive just like we want people to forgive us. Jesus knew it was best to treat others the way we want to be treated. Lead kids to pray and ask God to help them forgive others.

Life Application:

Pray for Someone Else

Have kids sit in leader-led circles.

Say: Today we learned that Jesus wants his friends to treat others the way they want to be treated. One thing I like other people to do for me is pray for me. Let's practice treating others how we like to be treated by praying for one another.

Have each adult or teen helper be the first example by turning to the person on his or her left and praying, "God, please let [child's name] know you're [his or her] good friend." Each adult or teen helper will have that child then turn to the person on his or her left and pray for that person with the same words. This continues until all kids in each group have prayed for the person on their left.

Pray Together

Say: It's nice to have someone pray good things for us. That's a way we can treat others the way we want to be treated. Let's thank God for having a group of friends here at church that practices treating others the way we want to be treated. Pray briefly.

Say: This week, practice treating others the way you want to be treated with everyone you meet! I hope you'll come back next week to share what happened.

Activity Page with a Point:

Younger Kids: Color a Coloring Page

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons.

Say: We're learning about a time Jesus stood up on a hill to teach a big crowd of people! He taught us to treat others the way you want to be treated. Another time, Jesus taught about a man who was forgiven but then didn't forgive someone who owed him money. Let's color that story.

Allow time for kids to color.

Older Kids: Do an Activity Page

Say: In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught the Golden Rule: Treat others the way you want to be treated. Let's see how you treat each other in this game.

Distribute the activity pages, pompoms, and dice. Kids will form groups of four and follow the rules to play a board game that's similar to Sorry!

Ask: • Did you send anyone back in this game? Why or why not?

• When you had the chance to send someone back, did it matter if they'd sent you back before? Tell me more.

• Now think about real life. How does the way people have treated you affect the way you treat them?

Say: We often treat people the way they treated us. So if someone sent you back to start, maybe you wanted to send them back! But Jesus said to treat others the way you want to be treated. Even if people haven't been nice to you, you can treat them the way you wish they treated you.

Give each child who played a set of pompoms to take with them so they can play at home using their own dice.