



## Older IK Groups- 2nd - 5th Grades

**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:

- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

### Play a Mirroring Game

**Say:** Today we're talking about how Jesus tells us to treat others the way we want to be treated. A quick game of Back Atcha will help us explore that!

- Have kids form pairs, and have partners stand facing one another about 3 feet apart.
- Have partners determine whose birthday comes first in the year; that partner will be the "Actor." The other person will be the "Mirror."
- The Actor will silently make motions the Mirror must duplicate. Facial expressions, calisthenics, and animal impressions all have to be replicated as closely as possible.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.
- After about 60 seconds, announce partners will switch roles.
- After playing another 60 seconds, ask kids to take a seat.

### Talk About It

**Say:** Great job! I can't tell you how much fun it was watching you do that!

**Ask:** • Those of you who were Actors first: What, if anything, would you have done differently if you'd known your Mirrors would have the chance to get back at you?

• Those of you who were Mirrors first: How did it feel to then become an Actor and put your Mirror through a workout?

• Tell about a time you did something mean and someone got back at you. Share your own story first.

**Say:** The way you treat others is often mirrored back at you. That's why Jesus helps us treat others the way we want to be treated.

## 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
- cellophane (check in the gift-wrap section)
- permanent markers

**Easy Prep:** Cut two 3x6-inch pieces of cellophane for each child. (Don't have time? You can add scissors to your supplies and let kids cut their own pieces.)

### Cover Cellophane With Mean Words

**Say:** We're learning that Jesus says to treat others the way you want to be treated. But why? After all, there are some people who are always going to be mean.

Give each child a piece of cellophane, and set out permanent markers to share.

**Ask:** • What are some mean things people do to us? Have kids write or draw their answers on the cellophane. When everyone's cellophane is pretty well covered, have kids hold their cellophane in front of their eyes.

• Describe how other people in our room look when you look through what you wrote or drew.

• How is that like what happens to our view of other people when we hold on to hurt?

**Say:** There are some people who will keep on being mean to us even if we treat them the way we want to be treated. So why should we bother being kind?

Well, here's one reason: When you keep focusing on all those mean things, it's hurting you. You couldn't see as well with all those words or drawings in front of your eyes! Holding on to the hurt and unforgiveness so you can be mean back causes a problem with all your relationships.

But there's a bigger reason, and it goes beyond ourselves. As we dig in to why we should treat mean people with kindness, let's see something interesting that Jesus said about how to treat others.

## Deeper Bible: cont

### Dig Deeper

**Say:** In these verses, Jesus is talking about when people go to heaven. And here's what he said.

**Read Matthew 25:34-40.**

**Ask:** · How do these verses make you rethink the way you treat others?

**Say:** The people Jesus was talking to in this story didn't know they were doing kind things for Jesus when they shared food and clothes or cared for sick people. They were just helping other people! But Jesus helped them see that when we do those things for people, it's just like doing them for Jesus. That goes for the hungry and sick, and it also goes for people who are mean to us. And he had something else to say.

**Read Matthew 25:41-45.**

**Ask:** · How does it change your view to think of ignoring people as ignoring Jesus?

**Say:** Jesus said to treat others the way we want to be treated, period. He didn't add "but only if they'll be nice back" or "but only if they're not mean people." That's because Jesus wants us to treat everyone the way we'd treat him.

Let's think about what it would mean to see Jesus when we look at all people.

Have kids form pairs. Give kids each a new 3x6-inch piece of cellophane to hold up in front of their eyes. Kids' partners will carefully use permanent markers to make tiny dots on the cellophane that line up with their eyes.

When both partners have marked each other's cellophane, they'll draw crosses over the dots.



**Say:** Now hold the cellophane in front of your eyes and look around.

**Ask:** · What do you see?

· If you looked at every person you interact with as if that person were Jesus, how would that change the way you treated people?

**Say:** You don't have to walk around with cellophane in front of your face to see people as if they're Jesus. You can just remember what Jesus said about the kind things we've done, or haven't done, as actions directed toward him. We treat others the way we want to be treated, and that includes everyone—because the way we treat anyone else is the way we're treating Jesus.

## Life Application:

### Supplies

- whiteboard or poster board and markers

### Make a List and Pray

- Have kids think of kind things God has done for them, such as loved them, forgiven them, and stuck with them.
- Write each idea on a whiteboard or poster board.
- When you have a decent list, have kids form pairs and pray together for God's help doing something for someone like what's written on the list.
- **Pray:** God, thank you that you have treated us with so much love and kindness. We pray for your help with our "do-to" list. Help us "do to others" all the things on this list. In Jesus' name, amen.
- Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.

## 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.