

# THE HEART OF THE GOLDEN RULE

Matthew 7:7-12

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## SCRIPTURE READING

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James 4:1-3, 1 John 4:13-16, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, John 13:34

## MAIN IDEA

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Knowing God's generous love is the engine that empowers us to actively love others.

## STUDY QUESTIONS

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### 1. Icebreaker: Anticipating a Need

- Think of a time when someone gave you a gift that perfectly anticipated a need you hadn't even voiced yet. How did that reveal how well they truly knew and valued you?

### 2. Observation: Unpacking the Father's Pattern

- Read Matthew 7:7-8. Notice the escalating rhythm of ask, seek, knock. What does this progression reveal about the kind of persistent, relational intimacy God invites us into?
- Read Matthew 7:9-11. Jesus contrasts flawed human parenting with the perfection of our Heavenly Father. What specific "good things" does a perfectly loving God uniquely offer us when we come to Him?
- Read Matthew 7:12. Look closely at the word "Therefore." It anchors the Golden Rule directly to the preceding verses. How does our active treatment of others hinge entirely on our security as children of God?

### 3. Interpretation: The Divine Reflex of Love

- We were created by God to be loved by God, and created by God to love. Looking at verse 12, why is it impossible to consistently live out the Golden Rule if we are not first resting in the reality of being deeply loved by our Creator?
- How does realizing that your life is an intentional, divine design—not something haphazardly pieced together—give you the emotional and spiritual bandwidth to treat others with radical empathy?
- The Golden Rule demands proactive kindness, not just avoiding harm. How does knowing God's heart as a generous Giver dismantle our natural default of self-preservation and scarcity?

### 4. Application: Making Kindness Normal

- In what specific areas of your life has your definition of "loving others" been passive (just avoiding doing wrong) rather than active (proactively doing good)?
- Think of a relationship in your workplace, home, or neighborhood that currently feels strained. How can you intentionally move past the fear of rejection by anchoring yourself in the truth that we love because He first loved us?
- What is one practical, tangible step you can take this week to make kindness normal in a culture that often defaults to hostility or isolation?