

Here's a small group guide based on the sermon transcription:

Small Group Guide: The Golden Rule - Wisdom to Live By

Opening Question:

- What's your understanding of the Golden Rule, and how have you seen it applied (or misapplied) in your life?

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus' Golden Rule summarizes both the Sermon on the Mount and the entire Old Testament.
2. The Golden Rule requires wisdom from God to apply effectively.
3. We need to ask God for a "listening heart" to discern between good and bad.
4. Our society often encourages us to define good and bad for ourselves, which is contrary to biblical wisdom.
5. Jesus promises that those who ask, seek, and knock will receive God's wisdom and help.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does the Golden Rule differ from the "iron rule" and "silver rule" mentioned in the sermon? Why is Jesus' rule superior?
2. The pastor says, "Wisdom is a listening heart." What does this mean to you, and how can we develop a listening heart in our daily lives?
3. How does our culture's emphasis on individual definitions of good and bad conflict with the biblical understanding of wisdom? Can you think of examples?
4. The sermon mentions that the Golden Rule is not about doing what others want, but what is truly best for them. How can we discern the difference in challenging situations?
5. Why do you think Jesus emphasizes asking, seeking, and knocking in relation to wisdom and the Golden Rule?

6. How does Jesus' experience on the cross (not receiving what He asked for) relate to our ability to receive wisdom from God?

Practical Applications:

1. Daily Reflection: Each day this week, intentionally pause and ask God for wisdom in applying the Golden Rule to a specific relationship or situation.
2. Golden Rule Challenge: Choose one relationship in your life and consciously apply the Golden Rule for a week. Journal about the experience and share with the group next time.
3. Wisdom Prayer: Develop a short prayer asking God for a "listening heart" and commit to praying it each morning.
4. Media Fast: Consider a short "media fast" (e.g., 24 hours) to reduce noise and create space for interior reflection and seeking God's wisdom.
5. Golden Rule Reminder: Write out the Golden Rule and place it somewhere visible as a daily reminder to practice Jesus' rule for life.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, thank you for giving us the Golden Rule as a guide for our lives. Help us develop listening hearts that seek Your wisdom. Give us the humility to ask for Your help and the grace to learn and practice this rule. Transform us into people who consistently do unto others as we would have them do unto us. In Jesus' name, Amen.