



LIFEgroup STUDY GUIDE

What you will need to supplement this guide:

1. A copy of the outline provided for notes on this message (copy from message or downloaded from the COASTAL APP).
2. A Bible or Bible APP to refer to verses.

PURSUING LIFE TOGETHER SUNDAY MESSAGE REVIEW

NOTE to the LIFEgroup Leader: This guide is provided as a tool to assist you in facilitating a structured discussion with your group. When used in conjunction with the outline notes and a Bible this tool will ensure that your group will *Engage Authentically*. The questions are merely recommended “talk starters”. It is important for you to let God help you navigate through the conversation as you *pursue life together* as a group.

OPEN IN PRAYER

STARTER QUESTIONS:

Where have you seen God at work in your life since we last met?

What stood out to you from the message this week?

MAIN IDEA:

- REVIEW THE MAIN TOPIC OF THE MESSAGE. Allow time for discussion
- READ THE MAIN SCRIPTURE FROM THE MESSAGE OUTLINE.

How did this verse speak to you in your life?

- REVIEW THE SUB-TOPICS of the MESSAGE.

Have someone read each of the verses that were highlighted in the message, and briefly discuss.

Is there an area that you feel God is speaking to you through this message?

FINAL THOUGHTS:

- SUMMARIZE the main idea of this message.

Would anyone like to share your thoughts about what we discussed today?

How can we pray for you as a group?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

CLARITY
“The Golden Rule”
Matthew 7:12

Confucianism - “Do not do to others what you would not like yourself.”

Buddhism - “Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.”

Hinduism - “Do nothing to others you would not have them do unto you.”

Judaism - “What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellowman.”

“Therefore, whatever you want others to do for you, do also the same for them—this is the Law and the Prophets.” Matthew 7:12 (HCSB)

“Here is a simple, rule-of-thumb guide for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you, then grab the initiative and do it for them. Add up God’s Law and Prophets and this is what you get.” Matthew 7:12 (MSG)

The Golden Rule isn’t about not doing the wrong things, it’s about doing the right things!

*“Here is a simple, rule-of-thumb guide for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you, **then grab the initiative** and do it for them. Add up God’s Law and Prophets and this is what you get.”* Matthew 7:12 (MSG)

“Think of what we want people to do for us, then take the initiative and do it for them!”

3 Simple Instructions on how to use the Golden Ruler:

1. Think - What would I like someone to do for me in the same situation?
2. Apply (the rule) - Take initiative and determine to do what I would like done to me
3. Act (according to the rule) - I will now do what I would want done to me

With the Golden Rule, Jesus wanted to give us a practical tool for everyday living that was easy to remember and understand. We just have to be faithful in applying it!

3 areas where we should pull out the Golden ruler today:

1. Gossip - Do I take initiative and treat people how I would like to be treated when handling conflict?

When we apply the Golden Ruler to our gossip, can we draw a straight line from our actions to Jesus? Do our actions measure up to the rule?

2. Gifts - Do I take initiative and treat people how I would like to be treated with my time, talents, and treasures?

When we apply the Golden Ruler to our gifts, can we draw a straight line from the use of our time, talents, and treasures to actions that look like Jesus? Do our actions measure up to the rule?

3. Grace - Do I take initiative and treat people how I would like to be treated with grace and forgiveness?

“For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”
Matthew 6:14-15 (ESV)

We judge others by their actions but expect them to judge us by our intentions.

When we apply the Golden Rule to our giving of grace, can we draw a straight line from how we distribute grace and forgiveness to actions that look like Jesus? Do our actions measure up?

We are all hopeless to live out the Golden Rule without the Holy Spirit!