

The Golden Rule

Matthew 7:12

1. Don't Be So Negative

(Jesus puts a positive twist on things)

2. The Positives

(What makes it so appropriate and timeless?)

It's _____

It's _____

It's _____

It's _____

Life Group Questions

The Golden Rule

Matthew 7:12

Opener: Work together and come up with a definition for ‘love.’

READ: Matthew 7:1–12

1. Recall Steve’s summary of verses 1–11:
Don’t be judgmental | Do be discerning | Ask God for help
How does verse 12 complete the thought of verses 1–12?

READ: Luke 6:27–31

2. What specifically are we to do to enemies?
3. How does this affect your understanding of the Golden Rule?
4. Steve quoted some philosophers with similar statements to the Golden Rule:
Confucius—“Do not to others what you would not wish done to yourself.”
Rabbi Hillel—“What is hateful to you, do not do to anyone else.”
How is Jesus’ rule different from these? Why does this difference matter?
5. What is the difference between not doing evil and doing good?
Give an example of each. Which takes more initiative? More energy?
6. Alfred Edersheim (1825–89) said that the Golden Rule is “the nearest approach to absolute love of which human nature is capable.”
Do you agree or disagree? Explain your answer.
7. Jesus said that this rule summarizes the Law and the Prophets.
What do you think he meant by that?

READ: Matthew 5:47–48 (perfection); 5:43–45 (love); 5:33–37 (truth)

8. How does the Golden Rule summarize these passages from the Sermon on the Mount?

READ: Matthew 22:34–40

9. How does the Golden Rule compare with the Great Commandment?
10. In what way do you want to grow in love right now? Toward God? Toward others? Toward family members? Toward the needy? Toward yourself?
11. How can you be a model for relating to someone you find difficult?

TAKEAWAYS: Share your main takeaway from our discussion.

Memory Verse: Matthew 7:12 — ESV

So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.