Preschool–Grade 5

Golden Rule Craft

Good gifts box · Matthew 7:7–12 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



Harder

Both levels are a red paper gift box with a yellow ribbon and bow, and a brown loaf of bread and an orange fish sticking up out of the top. A father gives his son bread and a fish, not a stone or a serpent, and "how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" (Matthew 7:9–11). Medium (left): the box. Harder (right): the same box with a yellow gift tag tied on with yarn, with a drawing of someone the child will do good to (7:12).

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Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



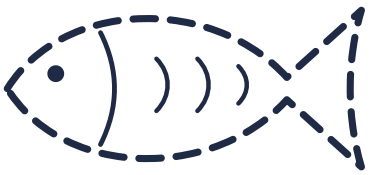
box front: color it red, the ribbon and bow yellow



box back: leave it white; glue on the 3 dotted lines



bread: color it brown



fish: color it orange

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

Matthew 7:12 (KJV)

verse strip: glue it on the back of the box

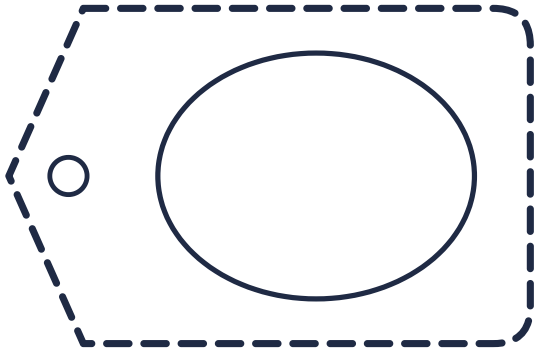
Color each piece the way its label says. Cut out all five pieces. Glue the box front onto the box back on the dotted lines, then slide the bread and the fish in at the top.

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Name: _____ ✂ Harder level

Gift tag (harder level)

Cut on the dashed lines. Punch a hole in the small circle.



gift tag: color it yellow around the oval;
in the oval, draw someone you will do something good for this week

How to add the gift tag

1. Make the box from page 2 first, with the bread and the fish in it and the verse strip on the back.
2. Color the gift tag yellow around the oval. In the oval, draw someone you will do something good for this week: a friend, a brother or sister, a neighbor.
3. Cut out the tag on the dashed lines. Punch a hole in the small circle.
4. Push one end of the yellow yarn through the hole and tie a knot.
5. Turn the box over. Tape the other end of the yarn to the back of the box, at the top right corner, so the tag hangs at the right side of the box.
6. Tell it: a father gives his son bread and a fish (Matthew 7:9–10), and God gives good things to them that ask Him (7:11). "Therefore," Jesus said, do for others what you would want them to do for you (7:12). The tag shows who you will do good for.

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/the-golden-rule-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), red, yellow, brown and orange crayons or markers, glue sticks and scissors. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child, a piece of yellow yarn about 8 inches long for each child, a hole punch and clear tape.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the five pieces. For the harder level, cut the yarn.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's five pieces. Kids color the box front, the bread and the fish. You rub the glue on the box back, and they press the front on and slide in the bread and the fish. Glue the verse strip on the back for them.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, cut out and glue the box themselves. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the box like the medium level. Then make the gift tag from page 3, draw someone in its oval, and tie it on with yarn. This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color the box front red, with the ribbon and the bow yellow. Color the bread brown and the fish orange. Leave the box back white.
2. **Cut:** cut out the five pieces on the dashed lines: box front, box back, bread, fish and verse strip.
3. **Glue:** rub glue stick on the three dotted lines of the box back (left side, right side and bottom). No glue on the top.
4. **Make the box:** lay the box front on the box back, edges even, and press. Now it is a pocket, open at the top.
5. **Fill it:** slide the bread into the left side and the fish into the right side, so they stick up out of the top.
6. **Verse:** turn the box over and glue the verse strip on the back. Read it together.

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Questions to ask while kids work

- Where did Jesus sit down to teach? *(On a mountain, Matthew 5:1–2)*
- What three things did Jesus say to do? *(Ask, seek and knock, 7:7)*
- Hold up the bread. If a son asks his father for bread, will the father give him a stone? *(No, 7:9)*
- Hold up the fish. If he asks for a fish, will the father give him a serpent? *(No, 7:10)*
- Who gives even better things than a good father? *(Your Father which is in heaven, to them that ask him, 7:11)*
- What does the Golden Rule say? *(Do for others whatever you would want them to do for you, 7:12)*
- What is one good thing you would like someone to do for you? Who can you do it for this week?

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** a **serpent** is a snake; **whatsoever** means whatever; **ye** means you; **would** means want; **men** means people; **even so** means the same way; **the law and the prophets** means the Old Testament Scriptures.
- **What the Bible says:** Jesus asked if a father would give a stone or a serpent, and the answer is no (Matthew 7:9–10). The craft shows only the good gifts, the bread and the fish. The name "Golden Rule" is what people call Matthew 7:12; the words are Jesus' own.
- **The gift box** is the craft's simple picture of "good gifts" (7:11). The Bible does not mention a box or a ribbon.
- **No one is drawn on the template.** At the harder level, kids draw a person in the gift tag's oval.
- **Glue tips:** use glue stick only on the dotted lines, so the top of the box stays open. If the bread or fish slides out, add a small dab of glue inside.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything and rub on the glue yourself. Let each child give their bread and fish to a friend to "look at," and say, "Here is a good gift!"
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Golden Rule lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/the-golden-rule.

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