Preschool–Grade 6

# The Golden Rule

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

**Main point:** Be kind to others, the way you want them to be kind to you.
**Bible passage:** Matthew 7. Read Matthew 7:7–12 yourself before class.
**Memory verse:** "do ye even so to them" *Matthew 7:12 (KJV).* Explain it: do for other people what you want them to do for you.
**You need:** a Bible, a box with a lid, toy food or paper pictures of bread and fish (one for each child), a small rock, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
**Before class:** put the toy food in the box and close the lid. Put a bookmark in your Bible at Matthew 7.

## 1. Opening game: Knock, Knock (5 minutes)

Hold the closed box on your lap. One at a time, each child knocks three times on the lid and says, "Please?" Open the lid and give the child one piece of toy food. Then the child turns to a friend and gives it away: "Here you go!" The friend says, "Thank you!" Say: "You asked, and you got something good. Then you gave something good. Today we will hear what Jesus said about that."

## 2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Matthew 7. Say: "This is true. Jesus said it. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Jesus went up on a mountain. He sat down and taught the people (Matthew 5:1–2). *(Make a mountain with your arms.)*

Jesus said, "Ask." *(Hold out your hands.)* "Seek." *(Hand over your eyes, looking.)* "Knock." *(Knock three times.)* (7:7)

**Say it with me: "Ask, seek, knock!"**

If a boy asks his dad for bread, will his dad give him a rock? (7:9) *(Hold up the rock. Shake your head no.)*

No! A good dad gives good things. *(Rub your tummy: yum!)*

God gives good things to them that ask Him (7:11). *(Point up.)*

**Say it with me: "God gives good things!"**

Jesus said: do for others what you want them to do for you (7:12). *(Point to a friend.)*

Do you want a hug? Give a hug! Do you want a friend? Be a friend! *(Hug yourself.)*

**Say it with me: "Be kind like I want them to be kind!"**

## 3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Where did Jesus sit down to teach? *(On a mountain, Matthew 5:1)*
2. If a boy asks his dad for bread, does his dad give him a rock? *(No! Good things, 7:9–11)*
3. How should we treat our friends? *(The way we want them to treat us, 7:12)*

## 4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus said, 'do ye even so to them.' That means: do for other people what you want them to do for you." Teach the motion: point to yourself on "do ye," then sweep your hand out toward a friend on "even so to them." Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Matthew 7:12" and clap three times.

## 5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God gives good things. God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
*Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.*

## 6. Activity: Kind Hands (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw something kind they can do for someone: sharing a toy, giving a hug, helping pick up. While they color, ask: "What do you want a friend to do for you? Can you do that for them?" Kids who finish early can play Knock, Knock again and give their toy food to a friend.

## 7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for good things.
Help me be kind to others. In Jesus' name, amen."

**Tips for little ones:** keep it short and let every child knock and give something away. Praise kind things you see kids do during class: "You shared! That is what Jesus said to do!" Send the take-home sheet home so parents can talk about it this week.

**If a child says the rock is scary or silly:** that's the point! Jesus asked a silly question on purpose: no dad would give his child a rock to eat. God is good, and He gives good things (Matthew 7:9–11).


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