

Neighborhood Life Group Guide

Matthew: The Golden Rule

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Matthew 7:1-13

March 11, 2018



Prayer: Pray for God to bless the missions team from Olathe Bible Church heading to Belarus as they seek to encourage and help train Christian leaders. Pray for their travels, ministry preparation, and empowerment by the Holy Spirit to be a godly influence.

Read: Take a few minutes to read and mark up the following passage on your own.

Matthew 7:1-12

Judging Others

¹ "Judge not, that you be not judged. ² For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. ³ Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴ Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

⁶ "Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.

Ask, and It Will Be Given

⁷ "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ⁹ Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? ¹¹ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

The Golden Rule

¹² "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Discussion Questions

1. After reading Matthew 7:1-12, share some observations from the verses you've just read.
2. Jesus says, "Judge not, that you be not judged" (Matthew 7:1). What are some ways that someone might misunderstand or misapply this verse? Are Christians ever supposed to judge?
3. In Matthew 7:1-5, Jesus teaches about our relationships with other believers. What can we learn about judgment, hypocrisy, and repentance from these verses?

4. In Matthew 7:6, Jesus teaches about our relationships with unbelievers. What can we learn about discernment from these verses? How is discernment different than judgement?

5. In Matthew 7:7-11, Jesus teaches about our relationship with God. What can we learn about praying (ask, seek, and knock) from these verses?

6. In Matthew 7:12, Jesus says "whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them."

➤ Why do you think Jesus says the Golden Rule is "the Law and the Prophets"?

➤ Think about your workplace or your home life. How might your workplace or family look different if everyone always lived out the Golden Rule?

7. What is one encouragement or conviction that you'll take away from your study of Matthew 7:1-12?

Personal Reflection: Take a few minutes to reflect upon how you have been living out your faith for Jesus Christ this past week.

- ❖ **Word:** Have I read God's Word every day this week? What has God been teaching me?

- ❖ **Prayer:** Have I prayed to God every day this week? What have I prayed for?

- ❖ **Fellowship:** Have I gathered with other believers for fellowship and worship this week? How have I encouraged other Christians? How are other Christians encouraging me?

- ❖ **Confession:** Where am I struggling with sin, temptation, doubt, or hardship? Is there someone I need to seek forgiveness from? Is there someone I need to forgive?

- ❖ **Praise:** How have I seen God at work this week? What fruit have I seen in other people's lives?

- ❖ **Mission:** How have I been on mission this week? Who needs to hear the Gospel? Who can I invite to church? Who can I encourage or pray for this week?

Prayer: After you've spent some time in personal reflection, share one prayer request – a praise, a need, a confession, etc. Write down your group's prayer requests and commit to praying for them this week.