The Golden Rule

Lesson Objectives
• The children will name the Samaritan as one who practiced the Golden Rule.
• The children will practice treating others as they want to be treated.
• The children will name one way that they can practice the Golden Rule.

Lesson Text

Scripture Memory Verse
“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.”
John 15:12

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: What We Like

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Bible Story: The Good Samaritan

Life Application: The Friendship Plan

Craft: Be a Friend

NOTE: Be sure to allow sufficient time for a snack.
What We Like
This activity will help the children begin to think about how they like to be treated.

Materials
For each child:
• glue stick
• scissors
For the teacher:
• magazines
• scissors
• 1 piece of white poster board, 22" x 28"

Preparation
1. Cut off a 3" strip from the top of the poster board and save it for the Life Application.
2. Cut out five pictures of smiling people from magazines.
3. Glue these pictures around the edge of the poster board.

Instructions
1. Have the children cut out pictures of smiling people from the magazines.
2. Have the children glue the pictures around the edges of the poster board.
3. As the children work ask them what makes them happy. Share the things that make you happy. Let this be a time when the children get to know each other and you.
4. Give the poster board and the 3" strip to the Life Application teacher.

Conclusion
Explain that they will be learning about making other people happy.

Teacher Tips
• Some children may need to rip out pictures if cutting is too difficult.
The Golden Rule

The Good Samaritan

The children will learn about being a friend.

Lesson Text

Materials
For the teacher:
• 6 pipe cleaners; 1 red, 1 purple, 1 blue, 1 yellow, 2 green
• an old sheet or pillow case
• modeling clay (black or brown, if available)
• scissors

Preparation
1. Make six pipe cleaner figures. See Figure A for a guide.
2. Insert the legs of each figure into a small ball of modeling clay as a base.
3. Cut a $3\frac{1}{2}'' \times 2''$ piece of sheet for each figure.
4. Fold each piece of sheet in half and then cut a small half circle along the fold. See Figure B.
5. Put one of the pieces of fabric over the head of each figure.
6. Cut two thin strips of fabric as “bandages” for one of the figures.
7. Practice telling the story with the figures.

Help
Have the children sit in a circle. Open the Bible and place it in your lap.

Who likes to have friends? We all do! Would you like to know how to be a good friend? Jesus tells us a perfect plan for being a good friend. But before I tell you what it is, I want to tell you a story from the Bible that may give you some clues. Listen carefully to the story that Jesus told the people in the Bible.

One day a man was walking along the road, going from one city to another. Introduce the blue figure. Along the way, some robbers stopped him. Surround the blue figure with two green figures. Bend the arms and legs of the blue figure and lie him on the ground. They beat him up and then they ran away, leaving him so badly hurt that he was almost dead! (Luke 10:30). Remove the two green figures.

After a while, a priest came along the same road. Bring out the red figure. When he saw the man lying there, he paid no attention at all and passed right by him (Luke 10:31). Move the figure past the one on the ground. Maybe he was in a hurry and didn’t have time to stop. But do you think he was being a good friend? No, not at all.

Then another man, called a Levite, came down the road. Bring out the yellow figure. When he saw the poor man lying there, do you think he stopped? No! He didn’t stop to help either. He didn’t care if the man died or not. He just hurried on his way (Luke 10:32). Have the yellow figure walk past the blue figure. Do you think he was being a good friend? No. Not at all!

But then a man from Samaria came traveling down the road. Bring out the purple figure. When he saw the man so badly hurt, he felt sorry for him and wanted to help him. He could not just walk by this man without doing something to help him. He put bandages on the man and took him to an inn where he could get some rest. Wrap some strips of fabric around the blue figure.

The next day the Samaritan gave the innkeeper some money to take care of the injured man until he got better (Luke 10:33-35). Do you think the Samaritan was a good friend? Yes! Why do you think so? Let the children respond.

I think the Samaritan knew Jesus’ perfect plan for being a good friend. Do you want to know what it is? Pretend you’re about to tell a secret. Okay, here it is: Jesus said, “Do to other people just what you would like them to do to you!” (Luke 6:31). Some people call this the “Golden Rule.” It’s golden because it is so important.

Conclusion
What if you were lying in the road badly hurt? What would you want someone to do for you? (Help you, take care of you, be kind to you.) Did the Samaritan follow Jesus’ rule for love and friendship? Did he treat the man the way that he would want to be treated? Yes! He obeyed the Golden Rule. Did the other men that passed on by obey the Golden Rule? No!

Who was the man who obeyed the Golden Rule? Was it the Levite? (no) Was it the priest? (no) Who was it? (the Samaritan)

Teacher Tips
• Make a donkey for the Samaritan out of pipe cleaners.
The Golden Rule

Figure A

pipe cleaner figure

Figure B

fold

cut line

fabric
The Golden Rule

The Children’s Activity

Scripture Memory Verse
“Love one another as I have loved you.”
John 15:12

Materials
For the teacher:
• decorated poster board from the Preclass Activity
• 3” strip of poster board from the Preclass Activity
• marker
• tape

Preparation
1. Write on the strip of poster board with the marker: “Do These Things to Others!”
2. Familiarize yourself with the activity.

Instructions
1. Tape the poster board to the wall.
2. Ask the children to think of ways that they like to be treated by others. Ask them questions to help them. For instance: Do you like people to laugh at you? No, you like them to be kind to you. Do you like people to tease you? No, you like them to speak kindly to you.
3. Write their responses in the center of the poster board.
4. Draw a line from each answer to a smiling face on the board. Explain that these are things that make others and us happy.
5. Explain to the children that Jesus’ Golden Rule is that we should treat other people the way that we want to be treated. Repeat each of the things on the board stating the opposite. For instance: Danny said that he wants people to speak kindly to him. So should Danny say mean things to people? No, if he wants people to speak kindly to him, then he should speak kindly to others. Continue with each of the things that the children mention.
6. Place the sign above the poster board. This sign says that we should treat others as we would want to be treated.

Scripture Memory Activity
Say the Scripture Memory Verse aloud for the children as you hold up your Bible. Pass the Bible around the group and have each child say the verse.

One way that Jesus loved people was by treating them the way that he wanted to be treated.

Conclusion
Let’s practice the Golden Rule this week. That will make Jesus so happy! Let’s all remember to invite a friend to church this week; because if we didn’t know about God or church, we would want someone to invite us wouldn’t we?

Shall we pray to God and ask him to help us? Say a short prayer together.

Teacher Tips
• If you have a younger group you may want to make a list of scenarios to help them think about how they would want to be treated.
Life Application

The Golden Rule

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.”

John 15:12
The Golden Rule

Be a Friend

This craft will remind the children of the Bible Story and that God wants us to be kind to each other.

Materials

For each child:
- 2 different colored pieces of construction paper
- 1 adhesive bandage
- crayons or markers
- 2 pipe cleaners

For the teacher:
- scissors
- tape

Reproducible Pages:
- Page A, 1 copy for the teacher

Preparation

1. Cut out the bed stencil from the copy of Reproducible Page A.
2. Trace and cut out a bed pattern for each child from construction paper.
3. Fold each side of the bed and tape the edges as indicated in Figure A.
4. Make a person for each child from two pipe cleaners as follows. See Figure B.
   A. Bend pipe cleaner #1 in half to form the body and legs.
   B. Bend pipe cleaner #2 in half and twist it about 1" from the bend. Open up the “head” to form a circle.
   C. Insert the head into the bend of pipe cleaner #1, twist the arms and legs tightly together.
   D. Bend the arms and legs to the desired shape.
5. Cut a 4" x 4" piece of construction paper for each child as a “blanket.”
6. Make a model of the craft following the instructions.

Instructions

1. Show the children the model of the craft and explain that when the Samaritan found the man hurt on the road he took care of him. (If they have heard the Bible Story ask them what the Samaritan did to help him.)
2. Give each child a blanket to color and decorate.
3. Give each child a pipe cleaner figure and a bed. Have the children bend the figure’s legs so that it sits up on the bed.
4. Have the children tape the legs of the figure onto the flat side of the bed. See Figure C.
5. Give each child an adhesive bandage to place on the figure.
6. Help each child to tape their blanket over the figure’s legs. See Figure D.

Conclusion

Ask the children; Would you want the Samaritan man for a friend? Why? (Because he treated others in a loving way, the way he would want to be treated.)

Teacher Tips

- While the children are decorating the blankets, individually help them to tape on the figures.
- Use small boxes such as bandage boxes as beds.
The Golden Rule

Figure A

Figure B

pipe cleaner #1

pipe cleaner #2

Figure C

legs

tape

bed

Figure D

bandage

figure

blanket

tape
Lesson Objectives
• The children will name the Samaritan as one who practiced the Golden Rule.
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Lesson Text

Scripture Memory Verse
“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.”
John 15:12

What I Like
The children will be reminded of the importance of giving.

Materials
For each child:
• glue stick
For the teacher:
• 1 large piece of poster board
• scissors
• magazines

Preparation
1. Cut a 3" strip off of the poster board. Save this to give to the Life Application teacher.
2. Cut out five pictures of things that you like and glue them around the edge of the poster board.

Instructions
1. Have the children cut out pictures of things that they like from the magazines.
2. Have the children glue the pictures around the edges of the poster board.
3. As the children work ask them to talk about the things that they like. Share the things that you like. Let this be a time when the children get to know each other and you.
4. Give the poster board and the 3" strip to the Life Application teacher.

Conclusion
Explain that the Bible Story was about treating others kindly. That they will be discussing this more during the Life Application Center.

Teacher Tips
• Some children may need to rip out pictures if cutting is too difficult.
Footprints
In this game the children will practice doing to others what they would want others to do for them.

Materials
For the teacher:
• 5 pieces of bright-colored poster board
• 10 index cards, 3" x 5"
• scissors
• marker
• masking tape
Reproducible Pages:
• Page B, one copy for the teacher

Preparation
1. Cut out the footprint stencil from the copy of Reproducible Page B.
2. Trace and cut out ten footprints from poster board.
3. Write one scenario on each footprint, numbering the footprints from one to ten: 1 - feels sad; 2 - having a birthday; 3 - gets hurt; 4 - watching favorite TV show; 5 - has no toys; 6 - cleaning room; 7 - feels shy; 8 - makes a mistake; 9 - afraid at night; 10 - feels lonely.
4. Number the index cards from one to ten.
5. Before the children arrive, tape the footprints to the floor in order from 1 to 10.

Instructions
1. Explain to the children; We have been learning to treat people the way that we would want to be treated. Today we are going to play a game so that we can practice thinking about how we should treat other people.
2. Place the index cards upside down on the floor.
3. Choose a child to come and pick a card.
4. Have the child read that number to the group. (Help if necessary.)
5. Have the child step on each footprint until she reaches the number on the card.
6. Read to her what it says on the footprint. Your footprint is number three. It says that your friend got hurt. Have you ever been hurt? How did it make you feel? How can you help your friend who just got hurt?
7. Continue, letting each child take a turn until there are no numbers left. Repeat the game if you have time.

Conclusion
Boys and girls, let's remember Jesus' Golden Rule not only with our friends, but also with our families. Encourage the children that during the game they showed that they cared about others more than themselves. Explain how that makes Jesus very happy.
Our Friends
This craft will help the children to think of ways that they can treat other people the same way that they would want to be treated.

Materials
For each child:
• crayons, markers
• glue stick
For the teacher:
• 1 piece of 18" x 24" construction paper for every two children
• decorative items: sequins, stars, trim, ribbon, yarn, etc.
• scissors
• white glue
• pen
Reproducible Pages:
• Page C, 1 copy for the teacher

Preparation
1. Cut each piece of construction paper in half lengthwise to form 9" x 24" pieces.
2. Fold each piece of 9" x 24" construction paper in half and then in half again. See Figure A.
3. Cut out the friend stencil from the copy of Reproducible Page C.
4. Trace the stencil onto the folded paper. See Figure B.
5. Cut out the “friends” leaving the folds at the hands and feet. NOTE: Be sure not to cut across the hands or the feet so the friends connect.
6. Make a model of the craft following the instructions.

Instructions
1. Give each child the folded friends to decorate with markers and decorative items.
2. As the children finish their decorating, have them draw on the back of the dolls, a way they can treat their friends that they would want to be treated.
3. Ask them to tell you about the picture that they draw and write their response on the side of their picture.

Conclusion
Have the children share their ideas with the group.

Teacher Tips
• Help the children come up with ideas of how they can treat their friends.
The Golden Rule

Figure A

construction paper

Figure B

stencil

Finished Craft
The Golden Rule

Scripture Memory Activity
Say the Scripture Memory Verse aloud for the children as you hold up your Bible. Pass the Bible around the group and have each child say the verse.

One way that Jesus loved people was by treating them the way that he wanted to be treated.

Conclusion
Let’s practice the Golden Rule this week. That will make Jesus so happy! Let’s all remember to invite a friend to church this week; because if we didn’t know about God or church, we would want someone to invite us wouldn’t we?

Shall we pray to God and ask him to help us? Say a short prayer together.

Teacher Tips
• If you have a younger group you may want to make a list of scenarios to help them think about how they would want to be treated.
“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.”

John 15:12
bed stencil
foot stencil