



## SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

Sermon: **“The Golden Rule” (Matthew 7:12)**

Date: **February 17, 2019**

Throughout the Sermon on the Mount we’ve seen on several occasions that we need the righteousness of God more than anything else in life. We must hunger and thirst for it in order to find true satisfaction (5:6). Without righteousness, we will not inherit the kingdom of God (5:20). How can we tell whether or not someone has true righteousness? What does a righteous life look like? Simply put: a righteous person is someone that lives according to the Golden Rule. Jesus says in Matthew 7:12, *“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”* Someone who loves their neighbour and treats their neighbour the way that they would want to be treated is someone who will live according to the law of God. They will not steal, they will not covet, they will not hate other people, etc. Thus, the Golden Rule is the standard that distinguishes between true and fake religion. It is the entire law of God boiled down to one single principle. It is the essence of true religion and true righteousness.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

### Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Matthew 7:12 and ensure that you’ve listened to Sunday’s sermon.
  - a. Review: What verses have we seen thus far in the Sermon on the Mount that explicitly speak of the importance of righteousness? List them out and briefly summarize each one.
  - b. Matthew 7:12 begins with the word “so”. What is the significance of this word?
  - c. In his sermon, Pastor Jacob mentioned that the “you” in verse 12 is an emphatic “you”. What does that mean and what are the implications of this?
  - d. Explain the scope of this command in verse 12. How is this an all-encompassing command? How many people must we do this for? In what situations are we to follow this rule?
  - e. What is the significance of the word “for” in verse 12? How does this little word add weight to the command?
  - f. What does Jesus mean by “the Law and the Prophets”?



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- g. Lookup Leviticus 19:18, Romans 13:8-10, and Galatians 5:14. How do these verses relate to Matthew 7:12 and help us to better understand it?
- h. Is the Golden Rule a positive command or a prohibition? Explain.
- i. How does this verse help us differentiate between true religion and false religion? Between sheep and goats?
- j. We must seek to obey the Golden Rule but we know that we will never do so perfectly. What then is our hope?

### Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. Why is the Golden Rule a litmus test for true religion? How does it help us distinguish between sheep and goats?
3. How can we assess whether or not we are following the Golden Rule?
4. Consider what Matthew 7:1-6 says about judging others. How does the Golden Rule apply to this passage? Would you want to be judged and told of your sin if someone saw sin in your life (consider James 5:19-20)? Why or why not?
5. Read Galatians 5:13-15. What would make us want to “bite and devour one another” instead of loving each other as ourselves? How can we fight against this in our lives and in the church?
6. Can you think of other situations where it might be particularly difficult to obey the Golden Rule? What can we do to pursue obedience in these situations?

### Accountability Question

Is there a situation in your life in which you are not obeying the Golden Rule? What needs to change?