

# The Golden Rule

Do Unto Others as You Would  
Have Them Do Unto You



# **The Golden Rule**

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Have Them Do Unto You

**H**ave you ever heard the saying “Do unto others as you would have done unto you”? This saying is called the “Golden Rule.” It means that you should treat others the way you want to be treated.

The phrase “Do unto others as you would have done unto you” is the most popular version of the Golden Rule in our country, but the Golden Rule has been around for a long time and other versions of it can be found in many different religions.

Two versions of the Golden Rule come from the Bible. The Bible is a collection of ancient texts that are organized as books and grouped into different parts, and its different parts are the core books of the Jewish and Christian religions.



# What is the Golden Rule?

Several books of the Christian Bible describe a man who lived a long, long time ago—nearly 2,000 years ago—in a part of the world that is very far from here. The man was named Jesus. One of the books of the Bible describes Jesus giving a talk atop a small mountain. During this talk he wanted to share some very important lessons, so he climbed the mountain and spoke to a group of people who were gathered to hear him. The talks Jesus gave were called sermons.



Because Jesus shared this sermon up on a mountain, this talk is called “the Sermon on the Mount. The Sermon on the Mount included many different lessons. Some of these included do not judge others; do not seek revenge, or try to get even with someone; and give to the needy.

Beyond the Sermon on the Mount, there are many rules included throughout the Christian Bible. Jesus said that the Golden Rule sums up all of the important teachings from scripture. “So in everything, do unto others as you would have done unto you.”<sup>1</sup>

We can apply the idea of treating others the way we wish to be treated to many situations in our everyday lives. For example, if you saw someone sitting alone at lunch, what could you do to treat that person as you would wish to be treated?

What if you noticed that someone in class had dropped their crayons all over the floor? How could you treat others as you would wish to be treated in this situation? You could be a helper and pick up the crayons too.

# Love Your Neighbor

“Do unto others as you would have done unto you” is the version of the Golden Rule most commonly used in our country today. But there are other, similar versions. The Jewish Torah is made up of five books, and those are also the first five books of the Hebrew Bible and the Christian Bible.

The Jewish Torah includes many of the same rules described in the Sermon on the Mount and was written long before the sermon was given. According to the books of the Torah, God spoke to a man named Moses to give him laws on how people should behave. One of these laws said to “. . . love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>1</sup>

In this case, the word neighbor is used in a broad, or wide, way to mean all the people that we meet. To love your neighbor means to care for someone else and show them kindness and respect as you would wish to be treated. By being kind and respectful, someone can show love.





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Besides the two versions in the Bible, there are also versions of the Golden Rule in the ancient books from other religions, including Hinduism and Islam. The Golden Rule suggests that every small act of kindness matters.

Most people think it is important to follow the Golden Rule.

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