

The Golden Rule



Class Section 1: The Golden Rule

Matthew 22:37-40—Jesus replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

Matthew 7:12—Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.



There are many ways to show love to others:



Forgiveness



Kindness



Consideration



Loving actions



Now let's talk about what makes you feel God's love. Think about the things that happen in your life that reassure you that He loves you and others love you.

When someone takes time to help me

A warm greeting

A smile



The list does not really have an end, for God's love is endless and without limit and without bounds. The ways that we can show His love are also limitless!

* Love Loves Whom?

God's love can love anybody, even your enemies!

Matthew 5:44—But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.



Class Section 2: Nine Tips

The verses we've just read tell us that love is important in our relations with others. Now we're going to talk about how to apply this in our daily lives.

1. Speak to people

Colossians 4:6—Let your speech always be with grace,

Proverbs 10:11a—The mouth of the righteous is a well of life.

Proverbs 15:23—A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!

Courtesy, kind words, loving and considerate language are all part of showing love.



2. Be Courteous

Courtesy is showing politeness and consideration to others. It is being aware of the feelings of others, and being mindful of what will make them happy.

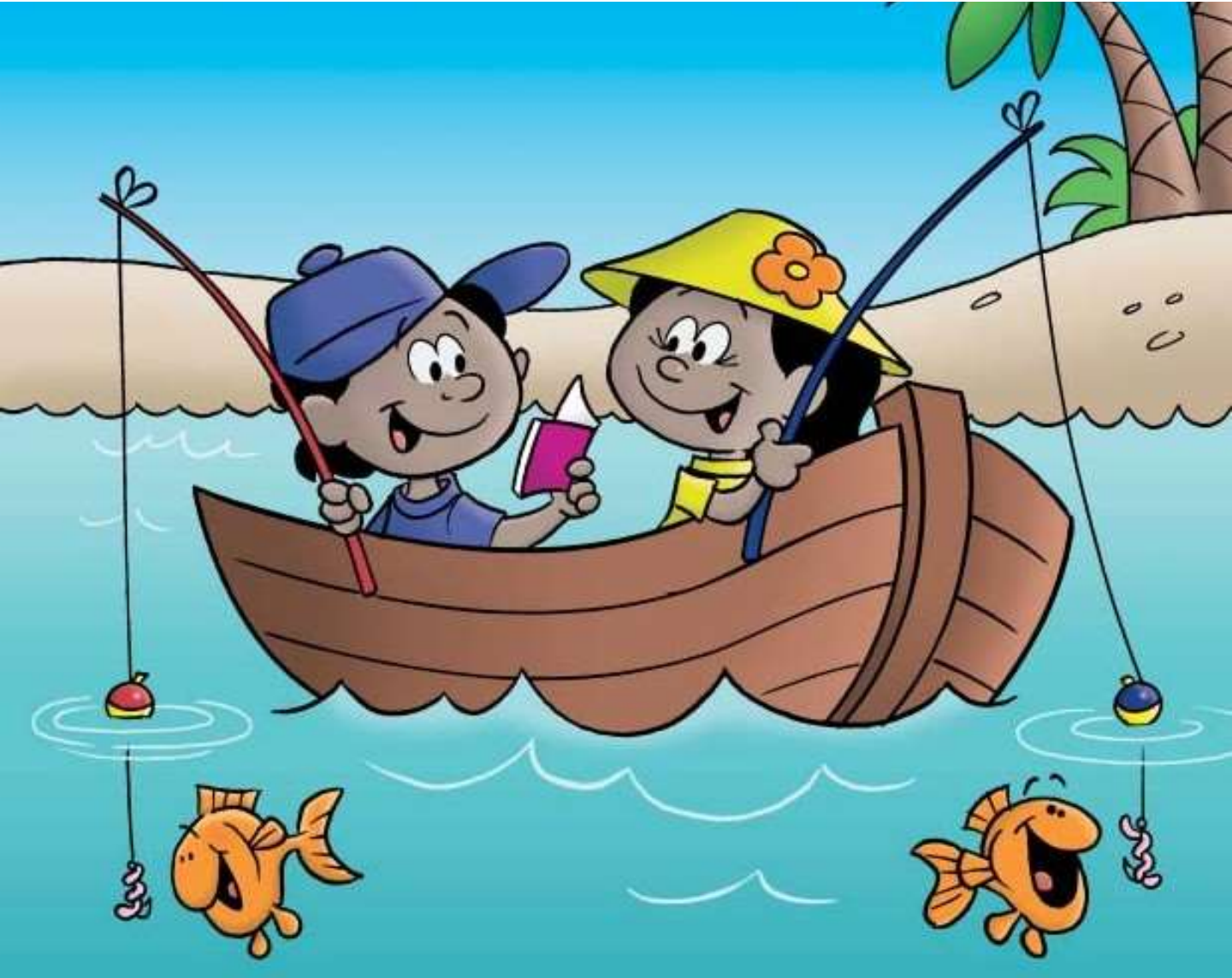
When you show kindness to people in little ways, when you are courteous and well mannered, it's also a way of showing love to Jesus, because you're showing love to the people He created. It is also an example to others of what Jesus is like.



3. Smile at people

Proverbs 15:13—A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance.

Actions speak louder than words, and a smile says, "I like you. You make me happy. I'm glad to see you."



4. Be friendly and helpful

Friendliness, helpfulness, kindness, generosity, and unselfishness are all part of love.

The Lost Shoe

This story is told of Mahatma Gandhi. He was standing in the doorway of an open railway carriage as it moved slowly out of an Indian station, when one of his shoes slipped off and fell on to the track. Quickly he took off his other shoe and dropped that on to the track, too.

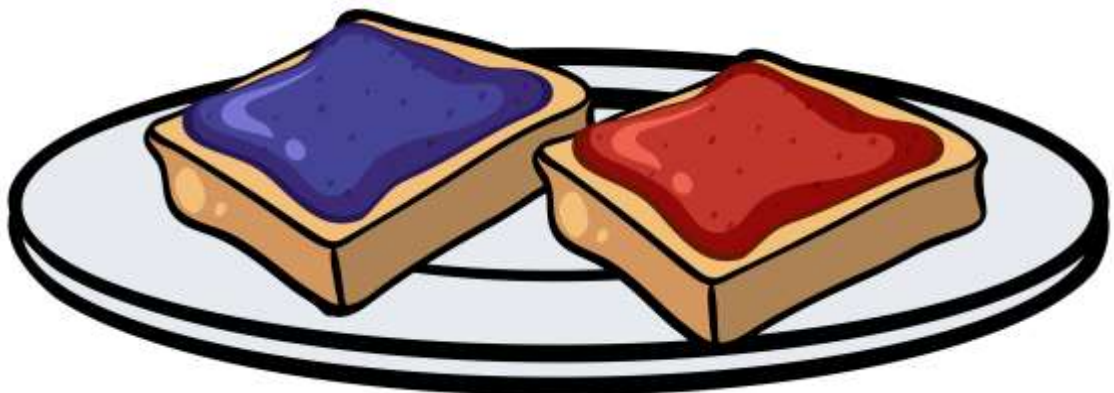
Seeing the puzzled look of a fellow passenger, Gandhi said, "A poor man may find a pair of shoes now. One wouldn't be much good to him."



It's wonderful to think not only in terms of how things affect ourselves, but also in terms of how they affect others.

Loving-kindness

A class of eight-year-old boys was asked to explain the meaning of loving-kindness; one youngster replied, "If I were hungry and someone gave me a piece of bread and butter ... that would be kindness, but if they put lots of jam on it ... that would be loving-kindness."





5. Be concerned

Galatians 6:2—Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Romans 12:15—Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

* 6. Be generous with praise, encouragement and appreciation

Philippians 4:8—Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy— meditate on these things.

How many people do you admire for certain qualities or accomplishments but have never bothered saying so? Why not practice praise?

8. Be genuinely interested in the feelings of others

James 1:19 - Always be more willing to listen than to speak.



8. Avoid arguments

2 Timothy 2:24—A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all,

James 1:19-20—So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

By choosing your words wisely, you can avoid provoking an argument

Proverbs 15:1—A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Colossians 3:13—Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.



9. Be alert to give service

John 13:13-15—(Jesus said:) You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.

Luke 22:24-26—Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest. And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, but not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves."

Summary of the Nine Tips

1. Speak to people
2. Be considerate
3. Smile at people
4. Be friendly and helpful
5. Be concerned
6. Be generous with praise, encouragement and appreciation
7. Be genuinely interested in the feelings of others
8. Avoid arguments
9. Be alert to give service



Giving to Others

From Jesus with Love

Embrace new opportunities to give. Try to find something to give every day—whether a smile, a compliment, your time, a listening ear, an item you don't need, or a kind word. There is always something you can share or give to others.

Never be content with what you gave from your heart yesterday. Imagine each day as a fresh new opportunity to give as much as you can.



Even simple acts of kindness and care will go a long way in helping to bring My love and blessings into the lives of others. Reach out and drop a little sunshine into the lives of those you come in contact with today. The love you give is not wasted. It's not unnoticed. Each small deed and kind action make a difference, so let Me work through you to share My love with those in need.

Pour out My love; give it freely to those around you. Give it in encouragement, in praise, in a helping hand wherever you can.