



## Day 1: The Golden Rule



### Overview

Have you ever heard, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”? Jesus shared this Golden Rule as part of a message he gave to his followers known as the Sermon on the Mount. The Golden Rule seems like such a simple guideline, yet it’s not always easy. We often fall short and think of ourselves more than we think of others. This week at camp we’ll focus on 4 specific character qualities of Jesus that will help us “do unto others”. We begin by exploring kindness. We’ll see the kindness of Jesus in action and challenge all to go and “do” more kindness. You’ll notice there is not one specific Bible story focusing on kindness, instead you’ll have to the chance to briefly explore a few times Jesus showed kindness during his ministry on earth.

**Memory Verse:** “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” **Matthew 7:12 NIV**

**Bottom Line:** Do Kindness! Kindness is showing others they are important by treating them the same way you want to be treated.

### READ

#### **Luke 17:11-19 | Jesus Heals Ten Men Who Have a Skin Disease**

“Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. He traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men met him. They had a skin disease. They were standing close by. And they called out in a loud voice, ‘Jesus! Master! Have pity on us!’ Jesus saw them and said, ‘Go. Show yourselves to the priests.’ While they were on the way, they were healed. When one of them saw that he was healed, he came back. He praised God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, ‘Weren’t all ten healed? Where are the other nine? Didn’t anyone else return and give praise to God except this outsider?’ Then Jesus said to him, ‘Get up and go. Your faith has healed you.’

#### **Matthew 19:13-15 | Jesus Blesses Children**

“Some people brought little children to Jesus. They wanted him to place his hands on the children and pray for them. But the disciples told them not to do it. Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me. Don’t keep them away. The kingdom of heaven belongs to people like them.’ Jesus placed his hands on them to bless them. Then he went on from there.”

#### **Luke 19:1-10 | Zacchaeus the Tax Collector**

“Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man named Zacchaeus lived there. He was a chief tax collector and was very rich. Zacchaeus wanted to see who Jesus was. But he was a short man. He could not see Jesus because of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree. He wanted to see Jesus, who was coming that way. Jesus reached the spot where Zacchaeus was. He looked up and said, ‘Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay at your house today.’ So Zacchaeus came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this. They began to whisper among themselves. They said, ‘Jesus has gone to be the guest of a sinner.’ But Zacchaeus stood up. He said, ‘Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of what I own to those who are poor. And if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay it back. I will pay back four times the amount I took.’ Jesus said to Zacchaeus, ‘Today salvation has come to your house. You are a member of Abraham’s family line. The Son of Man came to look for the lost and save them.’”

### WATCH

Go to [resurrection.church/vbc](http://resurrection.church/vbc) to watch Day 1 of The Jesus Tour.

## CREATE

Decorate a sheet of paper or posterboard with the words “Do Unto Others”. Leave room on the sheet to add words, phrases, or Bible verses after each day of VBC. Post the artwork where you can see it all week!

## REMEMBER

Recite Matthew 7:12. Come up with a group handshake or a song to go with it. Start each day of VBC with the verse handshake or song. For an extra challenge, add to your handshake or song each day!

## ACTIVITY

Supplies: paper, markers or other coloring supplies

**SAY:** Today we heard three stories about how Jesus treated everyone with kindness. Jesus wants us to show kindness to others too. This is a very important part of following Jesus. Jesus showed kindness to people with leprosy by coming close to them and healing them. Jesus showed kindness to children when the disciples tried to turn them away. Jesus knew children were important and loved them, just like he loves you. He said, “let the little children come to me.” Jesus also showed kindness to Zacchaeus, a tax collector who often cheated and took more money than he should, by having dinner with him. Jesus spent time with people who others thought were not important or special. Jesus sees everyone as important and special. That’s true kindness! Kindness is powerful. It can spread and change someone’s life! We’re going to make a kindness catcher and fill it with kind words.

### DO:

- Write KINDNESS at the top of the paper.
- With a marker, cover the rest of the paper with a long scribble using big swirling motions. Leave pockets of empty space within the scribble for the next step.
- Discuss kind things someone might say or do and write those inside the scribbles. Examples might be:
  - I like you
  - Hi, my name is...
  - I think you’re fun
  - You’re a good friend
  - You make me laugh
  - You’re good at...
  - I like your style
  - Thanks for being my friend

**SAY:** Wow! Look at how our kindness has spread and filled the Kindness Catcher! It feels good when others are kind to us. When we follow Jesus, we make the choice to be kind every day! That means we “do kindness” by showing others they are important. We do that when we treat them the same way we want to be treated. Here’s a fun way to say it, we DUO. (*Do Unto Others.*) Jesus showed kindness to children, people with leprosy, and to Zacchaeus. You came up with great ways to show kindness to others. You are following Jesus!

**PRAY** Dear God, thank you for an awesome first day on The Jesus Tour! You are an amazing and good God, and we are thankful for the stories in the Bible about Jesus that remind us to “Do Kindness.” Help me to be kind and show others they are important by treating them the way I want to be treated. We thank you for all the good things in our lives and pray for those who are hurt or have been treated unkindly. We pray that you place people in their lives that treat them with kindness so that they know they are loved. Amen.