

Small Group Study Guide

The Golden Rule

Series: God's Stump Speech

Matthew 7:12

From Sunday, May 16, 2021

Take a moment to pray, and ask God to guide your thoughts and reveal things to you about His word as you go through this study.

Appetizer:

Read through Matthew 7:12

This is a world-famous passage of scripture, quoted in church and secular settings frequently. When did you first hear this?

Caleb talked about how he thought the passage was kind of childish and "Sunday School" in that it's often taught to kids. Do you feel that way? Why or why not?

Main Course:

Caleb said that Jesus flipped the golden rule on it's head by changing it from not doing bad to actively doing good.

Question: How does this perspective change your perception of the golden rule?

Activity: Take some time and think about all the opportunities you have during your day to do good to those around you. Share them if you like.

How often do you take those opportunities? What stops you from taking them?

Caleb also said that Jesus, in this passage, is summarizing the teachings of the entire Old

Testament (the Law and the Prophets), and that loving God and loving others covers every other commandment.

Activity: As a group, think about some of the laws/teachings in the Old Testament. Then talk about how it can be fulfilled by either loving God or loving others.

Question: Why do you think Jesus would say not once (Matthew 7:12) but twice (Matthew 22:40) that the Old Testament can be summarized so simply? Do you agree?

Question: Have you made it your life's mandate to love others? What would doing that look like?

Dessert:

Caleb finished by challenging us to think about what a world where everyone loved each other first would look like.

Question: What do you think that would look like? What aspects of that world are appealing to you?

Question: Do you agree with Caleb that loving everyone around us well is our main mandate as Christians? Why or why not?

Takeaway: Having opinions and differing beliefs isn't wrong. Teaching holiness isn't wrong. But when those things get in the way of loving those around us, we've lost the plot.

Pray: For God to show you ways to love the people around you, and to give you the strength to love when living is hard.