

Avoiding Conflict

Month: Jan.

Week #: 20

Day: a. Mon. Time: 30 min.

The Golden Rule: Introduction

Life Tree Learning Systems ©

Objectives/Aims

The students will: memorize a paraphrasing of the Golden Rule; learn to apply it to real life situations

Materials

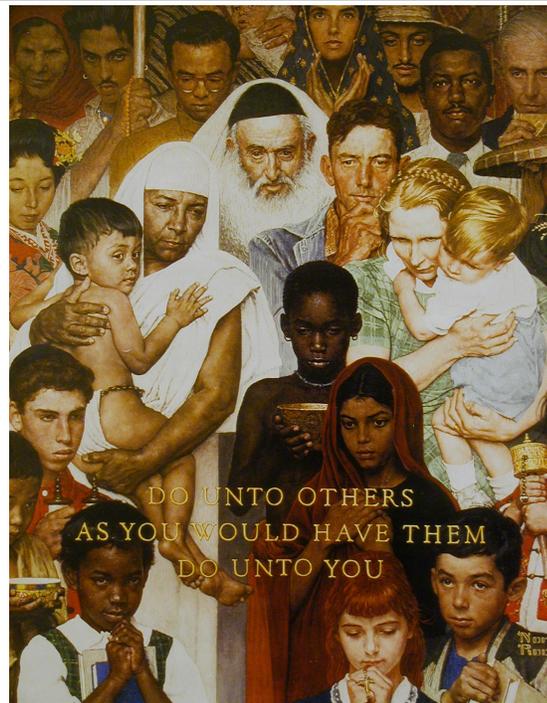
Norman Rockwell poster of "The Golden Rule" (optional)

Painting

So many different racial groups, so many different cultures, young and old... What does the Golden Rule have to do with so many different people?

Background

The Golden Rule, in one form or another, is practiced (sometimes) and preached in almost every major world religion (see below). The most common and accepted Judaic/Christian version is, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Especially for younger students, the paraphrase, "Treat others how you want to be treated" is much easier for them to remember and understand. Even if a person doesn't espouse a particular religion or is secular in their



world view, the Golden Rule as a stand alone principle, can be justified by its positive results for both oneself and for others.

While this rule sounds simplistic, if everybody applied the Golden Rule to their actions, it would prevent conflicts and violence, demonstrate love and caring for others and even, perhaps, bring about world peace.

The Universality of the Golden Rule in the World Religions

Christianity All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye so to them; for this is the law and the prophets. *Matthew 7:1*

Confucianism Do not do to others what you would not like yourself. Then there will be no resentment against you, either in the family or in the state. *Analects 12:2*

Buddhism Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful. *Udana-Varga 5,1*

Hinduism This is the sum of duty; do naught onto others what you would not have them do unto you. *Mahabharata 5,1517*

Islam No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself. *Sunnah*

Background (continued)

Judaism What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellowman. This is the entire Law; all the rest is commentary. *Talmud, Shabbat 31d*

Taoism Regard your neighbor's gain as your gain, and your neighbor's loss as your own loss. *Tai Shang Kan Yin P'ien*

Zoroastrianism That nature alone is good which refrains from doing another whatsoever is not good for itself. *Dadisten-I-dinik, 94,5*

Group Activity

1. Have the students sitting in a circle on the floor. Say, "Today I'm going to do a play that demonstrates a special rule, a rule that is found in almost every major world religion. If you guess correctly, you will win something 'golden', but please don't guess until you've seen both acts."

Play

Act 1: Say to yourself, "*I need a place to sit down.*" Walk over to where two students are sitting and put your index finger to your temple like you are thinking and talking to yourself. "*If I was sitting on line and someone wanted to sit next to me, how would I want them to treat me? I would want them to use courtesy and be polite.*" Turn to the two students and say. "I need a place to sit down. Could I please sit here?"

Act 2: Say to yourself, "*Oops, I lost my pencil. I know, I can take one from _____.* He'll never miss it." Put your index finger to your temple like you are thinking hard. "*No, wait, I wouldn't want someone to do that to me! I would want them to politely ask me if they could borrow a pencil.*" Say to a person on line. "Excuse me, _____, but could I please borrow a pencil?"

Group Discussion Questions

1. Who thinks they know what this special rule is?
A: The Golden Rule. Say, "Yes! If you know and apply this rule, you have won something that is truly golden... even better than real gold even!"
2. Why do you think it could be better than gold?
A: Using the Golden Rule could prevent conflicts and violence, demonstrate love and caring for others and perhaps, even bring about world peace. In fact, people's greed for the mineral 'gold' has caused many violent conflicts, even murder.

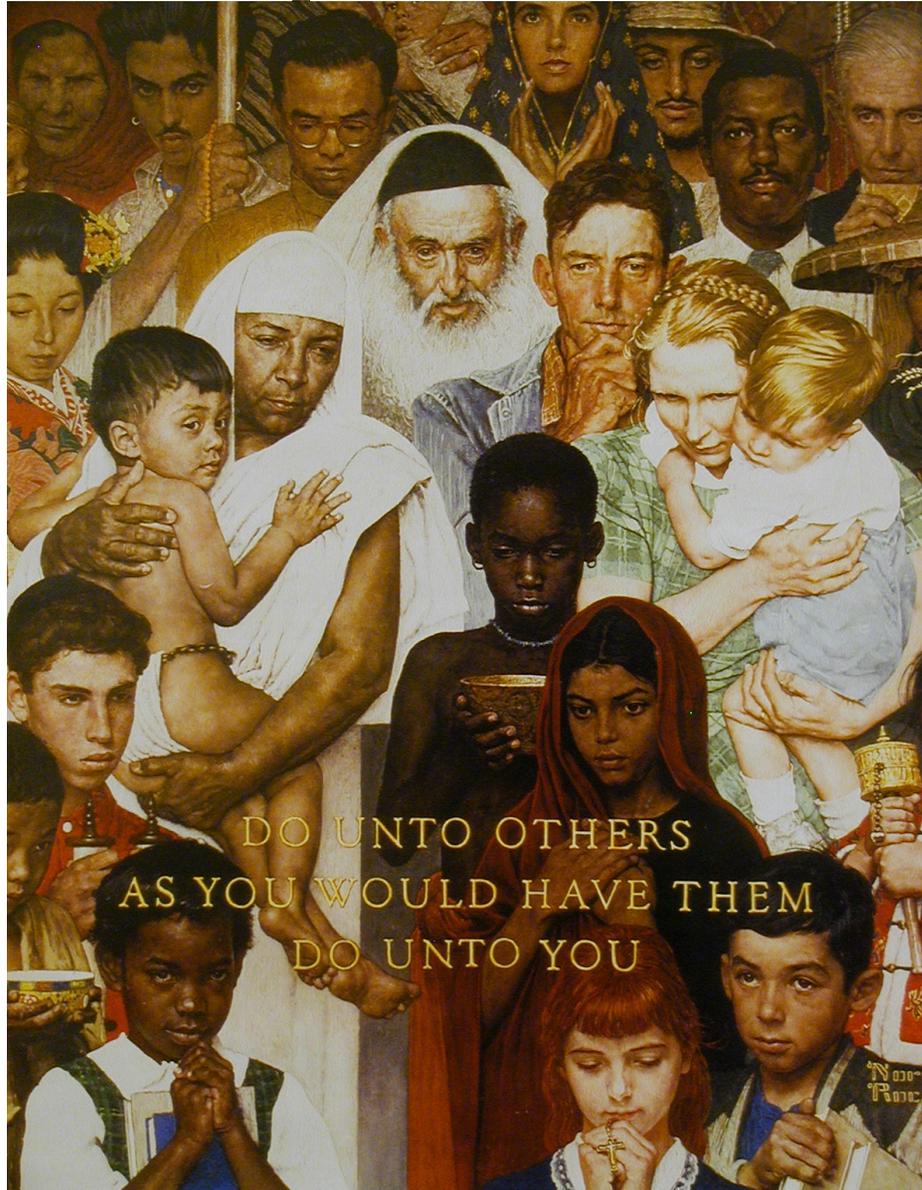
Variations/Extensions

1. Teach the students the paraphrase of the Golden Rule by having them repeat it after you. "Treat others how you want to be treated."

Conclusion

Say, "It's a special rule. It's a golden rule. By treating others how we want to be treated, you can help create a classroom that is fair, courteous and kind: a very nice place to be indeed!"

Avoiding Conflict: The Golden Rule: Introduction



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Avoiding Conflict

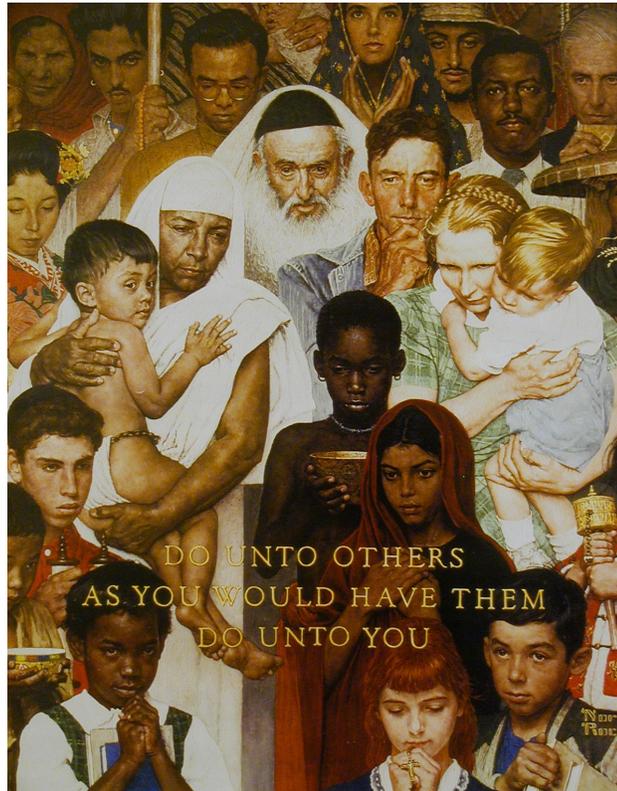
Objectives/Aims

By the end of this unit, your child will memorize a paraphrasing of the Golden Rule and learn to apply it to real life situations.

Background Information for Parents

The Golden Rule, in one form or another, is practiced (sometimes) and preached in almost every major world religion. The most common and accepted Judaic/Christian version is, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Especially for younger students, the paraphrase "Treat others how you want to be treated" is much easier for them to remember and understand. Even if a person doesn't espouse a particular religion or is secular in their world view, the Golden Rule as a stand alone principle can be justified by its positive results for both oneself and for others.

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Day 1

1. In the above painting by Norman Rockwell, tell your parents what you see. What do you think the artist was trying to say with this painting with the Golden Rule written on it? P.I. _____

Day 2

1. Write down the paraphrase (simple version) of the Golden Rule:

2. Write down two things you are going to do at home using the Golden Rule. For example, how do you think your pet wants to be treated? Please have your parents initial when you are done.

P.I. _____ 1) _____

P.I. _____ 2) _____

Day 3

1. Tell your parents what the boy was thinking in the picture at right when he decided to share some of his lunch with this girl. P.I. _____

2. Using the bottom of this paper, draw a picture of yourself using the Golden Rule with another person.

