

THE GOLDEN RULE

Sermon on the Mount | Family Devotion | Week 14

The Passage

Matthew 7:12

Questions

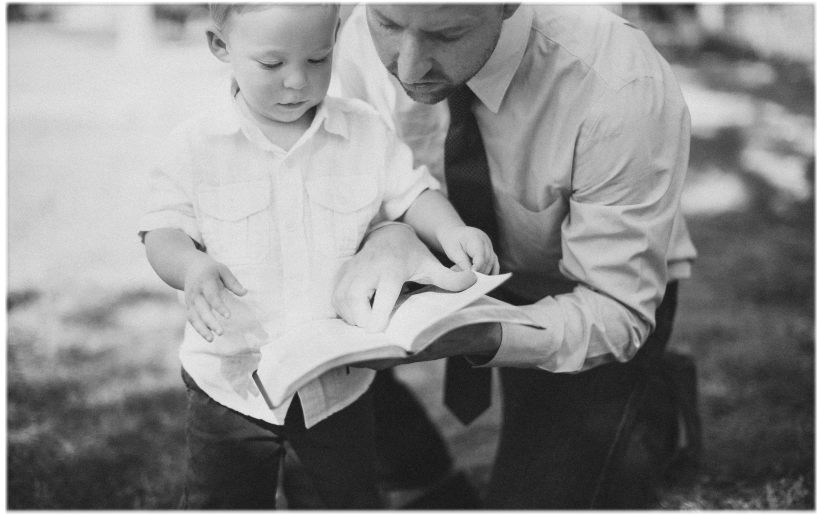
Where was someone kind to you this past week? Where did you show kindness?

What does Jesus mean when he says, "The Law and the Prophets?"

How can we as a family do more to actively love each other and those around us?

Prayer

God...we love you so much. Thank you for your love and mercy. We do need you every day. We want to be more than just kind. We want to live up to your standard. We want actively love those around us with the love that only you can give. Help our family to love those around us actively and consistently as we seek to show the world your heart.



The Story

"Be kind to others." "Try not to hurt anyone." "Be nice." All of us grew up with some version of this. Somewhere along the way, a parent or a teacher gave some version of this speech to us (usually because I wanted someone else's toy). This is the standard for people, isn't it. Just be nice!!! It doesn't matter if it is Legos or land deals, we should just be nice, right? For Christians, this is the Golden Rule. In Matthew 7, Jesus makes one of the most famous statements in the Bible. "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets." Treat other like you want to be treated. I want kindness, so I should be kind. But that actually what Jesus means? Are we supposed to just be kind? Actually, like so many other places in this text, Jesus is calling us deeper, drawing our eyes to a larger truth. Rather than simply being nice, Jesus is challenging us with the simple word do. There is something special in the call to do. Doing is an active call, not a passive one. Jesus is telling us to not sit back and wait. He is calling us to be active in our kindness, our caring, and our mercy. An active kindness, care, and mercy also goes by another name; it is called love. In reality, Jesus is calling us to love those around us and by doing that, we grasp the heart of the Gospel. To care more about those around us than we do ourselves is to follow the example of Jesus himself. If you want to fulfill the Law and the Prophets (The Bible), **do** to others. Love them.