

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments, as you feel necessary, to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

The Golden Rule – May 3, 2026

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

3 Points

- **Pray**
- **Trusting in Your Father**
- **For The Good of Others**

I. Pray

- Jesus moves from teaching about how to relate to others (judging, discernment, etc.) in Matthew 7:1-6 straight into prayer in verses 7-11. Why do you think Jesus connects our relationship with God so closely to our relationships with others?
- **Read and discuss** 1 John 4:7-8.
- **Read and discuss** Matthew 7:7-8. Jesus uses three commands: Ask, Seek, Knock. In Greek, all three verbs have a continual aspect to them. What does the continuous nature of these commands (ongoing action) teach us about prayer? How is this different from treating prayer like a one-time “emergency call”?
- The sermon listed 4 important observations about prayer in Matthew 7:7-8. Which one stood out to you most, and why?
 - **Leaders Cheat:**
 - Ongoing/continuous aspect
 - Only for believers
 - Requires right motives (James 4:3)
 - Must be according to God’s will (1 John 5:14)

- How does the promise in Matthew 7:7 specifically help us live out the difficult balance between “Judge not” (v.1) and “Don’t cast pearls before pigs” (v.6)? When have you needed God’s wisdom in a relationship or conflict?

II. Trusting in Your Father

- Jesus makes a “lesser to greater” argument: Even evil fathers give good gifts to their children. How does this comparison strengthen our confidence when we pray? What emotions or thoughts come up when you hear God described as “your Father who is in heaven”?
- In the Old Testament, God was rarely called “Father” by the Jews, and almost never personally (“My Father” or “Our Father”). Why would Jesus’ teaching on this have been so shocking to the Jews?
- How does understanding God as a loving Father change the way you approach Him in prayer?
- How does trusting that God is a good Father who gives “good things” to those who ask free us up to live sacrificially?

III. For the Good of Others

- Verse 12 begins with “So” (or “Therefore”). How is the Golden Rule in verse 12 connected to the teaching on prayer and trusting God as Father in verses 7-11?
- Many ancient cultures had a negative version of the Golden Rule (“Don’t do to others what you wouldn’t want done to you”). Jesus made it positive: “Whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them.”
 - What is the difference between these two approaches? How does it raise the standard?
- In the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10), the priest and Levite obeyed the negative version of the Golden Rule (they didn’t harm the man), but the Samaritan obeyed Jesus’ positive version. What does this story teach us about what “loving our neighbor as ourselves” looks like in real life?
- Because God is our good Father who promises to take care of us, we are freed to love others sacrificially.

- Where is God currently calling you to love someone “at great cost” (time, money, energy, emotions, etc.)?
- How does trusting God as Father help you obey the Golden Rule in that situation?
- Looking at the three points of the sermon (Pray • Trust your Father • For the good of others), which area do you sense God challenging you in most right now?
- In the sermon, there was a quote that went like this: “You will never be a better husband or dad than you are a son of the heavenly Father.” How have you seen your closeness (or distance) with God affect your relationships with family, friends, or church family?

Final Prayer

- *Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God. I bless you, O our Father, that you have made yourself known to us. We have seen Jesus, and therein we have made you known to us. We have baptism—that I am engrafted into him, your only begotten Son; and in him I am of you. Shed abroad, therefore, your love in my heart by the Holy Spirit. Give me the filial spirit of confidence toward you, that I may not be afraid to believe. Help me to know that you have indeed made me your child, so that the mind of the Son may be formed in me. Teach me to ask of you, as knowing that you will not give me for bread a stone. - Henry Wotherspoon 1850-1930*



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