

The Golden RULER

Matthew 7:12

(You will find rulers that you can print out and laminate below.)

Materials needed for object lesson:

Objects to measure (equal to or less than 8.5 inches if you are using the printed rulers below)

We used pencils, blocks, pipecleaners, etc.

White board and pens for posting measurements.

Set out objects to measure and draw icons of them on the white board. Each team that measures an item should write their measurement next to the appropriate icon. (Note that the measurements should be different because the rulers will be different.)

Team measurement will work best if children are involved. Parent/child teams are recommended.

Ask for teams to measure items and put their results on the whiteboard.

When that task is done, ask why the measurements are different. (You can note that the rulers are all different by asking how long is each ruler, or what is the biggest number on your ruler.)

Does anyone know the “golden rule”? (Someone should be able to say it.) “Do to others what you would have them do to you.” That would make us all a lot happier, right?

But we do have a problem and our rulers show us what that might be. The rulers were different, so we got different measurements. We are all are different too. Do we all want to be treated the same way? Who likes to be hugged? Who doesn't like to be hugged? When you play with friends, who wants to play with dolls? Who wants to climb trees? We are all different, just like this side of our rulers.

What is the golden rule? “Do to others what you would have them do to you.” I always wanted to play with dolls instead of climbing trees. So, if I were playing with you, you should always play dolls with me, right? Why not?

The golden rule is not so hard to figure out if we know who the golden RULER is. Turn your ruler over. This side of the ruler will give you all the same answers when you measure things. What do you see on this side of the ruler? (hearts and crosses) The hearts and crosses remind us of how much God loves us. They remind us that God wants us to treat others the way HE treats us.

I have a ruler for each of you. You can use it as a bookmark to remind you that we should love others the way God loves us.

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THE GOLDEN RULE

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