

## Living the Golden Rule

Tommy Gray | February 20, 2011



*In a nutshell:*

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

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**Icebreaker:** Tommy mentioned the game “Mercy” that he played as a kid.

**Discuss:** What was your favorite childhood game? What games did you dread?

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### How to Live the Golden Rule:

**I should treat others the way I want to be treated.** “Do unto others...” is often called *The Golden Rule*.

**Discuss:** Did you see *The Golden Rule* lived out in your family, in the church or school where you grew up? Do you think it was modeled for you by “grown-ups.”

**I should show mercy.** Grace is *getting* what I *don’t* deserve. Mercy is *not getting* what I *do* deserve. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

**Discuss:** The Bible says: “Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy.” (Matthew 5:7.) Does this verse help convince you to show mercy to others? Why (or why not)?

**I should not judge.** Read Matthew 7:1-5. (Look this up and read it in multiple translations if you have them). In other words, “What goes around, comes around.” Whatever you dish out tends to come back to you. Choosing judgment over mercy tends to distance you from others and cause even more pain.

**Discuss:** Is there anything you know that you do that keeps people at arm’s length?

**I should forgive.** We need to forgive others, ourselves (because we’ve done dumb things we regret), and even God (because we put God on the hook and blame him... even put him on the stand and “convict” Him in our eyes). If we don’t choose forgiveness, we will be weighed down for our whole lives.

**Discuss:** Forgiveness is a decision, not a feeling. Can you describe a time when you decided to forgive someone... even when you didn’t feel like it?

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### As a Group:

**Discuss:** In one of the questions above we asked: “Is there anything you know that you do that keeps people at arm’s length?” If your group knows each other well and you feel comfortable making yourself vulnerable, ask others in the group to point out areas where you may be doing this *without knowing it*.