

Intended for Grades: 7-12 Estimated Time: 30-45 minutes

Lesson Title: THE GOLDEN RULE - A UNIVERSAL TRUTH

Lesson Purpose: Students will learn about the universal truth of the Golden Rule and how this understanding might be incorporated into everyday life to support e ola pono, living pono (doing the 'right thing').

Materials & Preparation:

- * Internet access to watch video – Golden Rule Movie Featuring Youth (6:28 minutes)
<http://www.scarboromissions.ca/golden-rule/golden-rule-videos>
- * Universal Golden Rule - two page handout (See below)
- * What Famous Person overhead or mini-poster (See below)
- * Paper and writing tool for each participant

Background Information:

The “Golden Rule” is found in every major religion throughout the world. Each group states this concept slightly different... and they ask people to consider what they are doing to others by judging how they would feel... This universal truth is about human dignity. It is eternal and a part of many cultures, spiritual practices, and religions because it reflects the unchanging social nature of human beings.

Steps:

1. Begin the session by showing the mini poster “What famous person..” and discuss questions posed.
2. Set lesson purpose by asking students what they already know about the “Golden Rule” and why it might be important to live by. You might ask:
 - * Who can tell me what they know about the Golden Rule?
 - * What religions do you think might include the Golden Rule as a spiritual practice?
3. Introduce the video and invite students to remember one idea that they thought was important. <http://www.scarboromissions.ca/golden-rule/golden-rule-videos>
4. Debrief the video by inviting student comments, sharing what they remember.
5. Share the following quote and talk about the meaning of reciprocity:
Tsekung asked, "Is there one word that can serve as a principle of conduct for life?" Confucius replied, "It is the word shu--reciprocity."
6. Create partners or small groups and distribute the Universal Golden Rule handout: Ask students to read and discuss the passages, and then each person is to pick which passage resonates the most with them. Have them complete a quickwrite where they write down the quote they like the best and describe why they like this definition.
7. Invite students to share their responses with their partner, small group, or whole class.

8. Extension Discussions/Activities:

*Share this statement from the Torah: “What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor.” Ask why it seems easier to describe what is hateful or hurtful to yourself than to articulate “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

* Write the phrase, “Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me.” Ask students to discuss if they agree or disagree with this statement and explain why.

* Ask students to define the term “global family”. Ask them to relate this idea to the concept of ‘Ohana in Hawaiian culture.

* Provide art materials and invite students to draw a picture and write a brief caption sharing their answer to this question:

‘What would the world be like if everyone lived by the Golden Rule?

Reflection Questions:

* What was something useful/important that you learned from this lesson?

* What might you do to help you and others remember this global concept?

Resources:

<http://www.watchknowlearn.org/Video.aspx?VideoID=24931&CategoryID=3126W>

What famous person said this?

**“An eye for an eye
makes the whole world blind.”**



Who is this spiritual leader?
What does this statement mean to you?

Universal Golden Rule

The Golden Rule, or the ethic of reciprocity, is found in the scriptures of nearly every religion. It is often regarded as the most concise and general principle of ethics. Sources: <https://www.scarboromissions.ca/golden-rule/educational-resources>

African Traditional Religion: *One going to take a pointed stick to pinch a baby bird should first try it on himself to feel how it hurts.*
Yoruba Proverb (Nigeria)

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

Christianity: "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind'. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets." Bible, Matthew 22.36-40

Christianity: *Whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them.* Bible, Matthew 7:12

Confucianism: *Try your best to treat others as you would wish to be treated yourself, and you will find that this is the shortest way to benevolence.* Mencius VII.A.4

Hinduism: *One should not behave towards others in a way that is disagreeable to oneself. This is the essence of morality. All other activities are due to selfish desire. Mahabharata, Anusasana Parva 113.8*

Islam: *Not one of you is a believer until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself. Forty Hadith of an-Nawawi 13*

Jainism: *A man should wander about treating all creatures as he himself would be treated. Sutrakritanga 1.11.33*

Judaism: *What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellowman. This is the entire Law; all the rest is commentary. Talmud, Shabbat 3id*

Judism & Christianity: *You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Bible, Leviticus 19.18*

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*