

# Success with People

## The Golden Rule, Part 1

☑ **Target: Be loving!**

### Key Verses

*John 15:12—This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*

*Matthew 7:12—Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.*

*1 John 4:7—Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.*

### Suggested Bible Reading

☐ Matthew chapters 22–28

### Other Recommended Reading

☐ *Love's Many Faces (Get Activated! Book)*

### **Prayer and Praise: “Lord, Please Help Me to Show Your Love!”**

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Lord, I know that You care for people through people, and even the little things I do can mean a lot. Help me to share with others the light of my smile, some kindness.

There are so many people searching for love! People everywhere are looking around for some little ray of hope, some salvation, some bright spot somewhere! Help me to show them that a little love exists, a little mercy. Help them to know through the ways I show them love that You exist, because You are Love! You told us, “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren” (1 John 3:16). Help my heart to be filled to overflowing with Your Love, that it might spill out and bring some joy to those around me. Amen.

### **Meditation: Getting Along with People—Using Love as Your Guide**

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1. Speak to people
2. Smile at people
3. Address people by their name
4. Be friendly and helpful
5. Communicate
6. Be concerned
7. Be generous with praise, encouragement and appreciation
8. Be genuinely interested in the feelings of others

9. Avoid arguments
10. Be alert to give service

It all boils down to what Jesus said nearly 2,000 years ago: “Love the Lord with all your heart and soul and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself. Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them” (Matthew 22:37–40; 7:12). These are not just some Bible verses or some abstract spiritual principle, but this is something to base your life on!

**<To think about>** *How do I want to be loved and treated? That’s how I should love and treat others. Who do I meet when I’m out and about during the day? They need love, encouragement, cheerfulness, comfort, hope, peace, concern and compassion just like I do—and the Lord most of all, of course. What if that person on the street or in the shop or school was me? How would I want to be loved and reached?*

**<To think about>** *My family at home deserves the same love, appreciation and support. How can I help make my home a true home of hearts?*

## **Getting to Know the Bible: The Book of Luke**

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Luke, the author of the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts, was a Greek doctor who was a friend and companion of the apostle Paul (Colossians 4:14—“the beloved physician”). He is the only writer of the New Testament who was not Jewish.

Luke addressed the book to “Theophilus,” whose name translates as “lover of God.” Perhaps this was an individual or perhaps this was written to anyone who loves God. He seemed to be writing especially for the Gentiles, as Luke took care to explain Jewish customs to the reader and sometimes substituted Greek names for Hebrew.

The Gospel of Luke is the most complete biography of Jesus—at least half of what he describes in his Gospel is not found in any other book of the Bible. Luke described what Jesus was like—details of His character, prayer, how human He was, and His great loving concern. Some of the most famous parables are found in the Gospel of Luke: the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30–37), the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11–32), the Sower (Luke 8:4–15), etc.

Luke’s Gospel is sometimes referred to as the Gospel of “The Son of Man.” It emphasizes Jesus’ sympathetic attitude toward the poor, the lowly, and the outcasts. The poor disciples (6:20); the sinful woman (7:37); Mary Magdalene (8:2); the Samaritans (10:33); publicans and sinners (15:1); the deserted beggar (16:20–21); the lepers (17:12); the dying thief (23:43), etc.

This Gospel also emphasizes prayer. It contains three parables on prayer not found in the other Gospels. The friend at midnight (11:5–8); the unjust judge (18:1–8); the Pharisee and publican (18:9–14).

It contains Jesus’ prayers—at His baptism (3:21); in the wilderness (5:16); before choosing the disciples (6:12); at the transfiguration (9:29); before giving the Lord’s Prayer (11:1); for Peter (22:32); in the garden of Gethsemane (22:44); on the cross (23:46), etc.