Lesson 2: Golden Rule

Right now, the Nurture Program is moving through Lent toward Easter. We are working our way through various Jesus stories that took place in Jerusalem just prior his crucifixion. Last week's lesson on Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem (aka Palm Sunday) can be found here.

This week's lesson focuses on the Golden Rule. Wikipedia has a great page that shows how the Golden Rule has shown up throughout history and across faith traditions.

In the Bible story, Jesus is being tested by the religious leaders of the day. There are over 600 commandments in the Jewish tradition, so they were asking him what the most important commandments were. Jesus' answer is found in Mark 12. Here is our version of that Bible passage that we read to the older kids (Grades 3-8):

> One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that [Jesus] answered them well, [the scribe] asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord your God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that '[God] is one, and besides [God] there is no other'; and 'to love [God] with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,' – this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that [the scribe] answered wisely, [Jesus] said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask [Jesus] any question

We use a great book, called *The Golden Rule* by Ilene Cooper and Gabi Swiatowska. Click here for a YouTube reading of it.

We do a variety of crafts using gold glitter, gold markers, and gold stars. Here's one that you can do at home. It's our version of Treasure Pots by Happy Home Fair

We write "Golden Rule" on the pot. On our coins, we write nice things we can do for others. If you have supplies, you can cut the pot and the coins out of construction paper and glue them onto a background page.
Alternatively, you can simply draw a pot and a few coins!