

# Cooperation is working together to do more than you can do alone.

## DAY 1

### Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Riding a seesaw  
Talking on a pair of walkie-talkies  
Playing catch  
Playing hide-and-go-seek

Know what all these things have in common? They all require at least two people. If you sat on a seesaw by yourself, you'd just sit there with one end up in the air. If you picked up a pair of walkie-talkies by yourself, your conversation sure wouldn't last very long. There are just some things that require two people.

The same is true when it comes to getting things done. Four hands are always better than two hands. Cooperation is working together to do more than you can do alone.

#### Pair-Up Memory

Grab a friend or sibling, a Bible and a ball and head outside if you can. Toss the ball back and forth as you say the words of the verse. If one of you drops the ball, you have to start back at the beginning of the verse. Repeat until you can say the entire verse from memory. Reference the Bible if you need to!

## DAY 2

### Read Genesis 2:18

God declared that it was “very good” after making Adam. But the picture wasn't complete. Something was still missing. Though Adam had named all the animals, he didn't find a helper that was just right for him—so God made Eve!

God didn't want us to be alone. From the very beginning, God knew that we would need each other, because we can do more and have a lot more fun when we cooperate and work together.

But cooperation or working with others isn't always easy. There will be times when you wish you were “just by yourself” or that you could do it on your own. But you will always be able to do more good when you choose to work with others.

#### Verse Illustrator

Write out the words of Genesis 2:18 in the space below. Use symbols, pictures, or crazy letters to create your own special edition of this verse.

## Read Colossians 3:14-15

### Handprint

Grab a piece of paper and trace around the fingers on your hand. Think about all the parts of your body that had to work together just now to trace that hand. It required your brain, your fingers, your wrist, your eyes... so many "parts" of you had to work together!

The same way the parts of your body work together, Jesus wants us to work with one another. Cooperation requires care and attention. We have to take other people's ideas into account and show them that what they have to say is important.

Grab your handprint drawing from earlier. Write the words of today's verse in a long curling line up and over the fingers of your hand. Place your drawing in a spot where you'll see it each day as a reminder that Jesus wants us to work together.



## Read Ephesians 4:16

What does the word "support" mean? Write your own definition here:

Support means to help or assist. Support and cooperation go hand in hand. Today's verse reminds us that Jesus created each of us to play our part in supporting and helping each other. Isn't that awesome?

### Cooperation Challenge

Grab some cotton balls or Q-tips. Dump all the items on one end of your kitchen table. Place a bowl on the opposite side of the table. Set a timer for one minute and see how many items you can move to the bowl. NOTE: You may only move ONE item at a time. Ready? Go!

How many items did you move alone?

Now, let's try cooperating! Recruit a family member or friend to help you play the game. Set a timer for one minute to see how many items you can move to the bowl. Same rules apply, only move ONE item at a time. Ready? Go!

How many did you move together?

Jesus wants us  
to work together.

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## DAY 1

### Read Exodus 17:12

What happened when Moses' arms got tired? The Israelites began to lose the battle. Aaron and Hur saw what was happening. They chose to cooperate and work together to help Moses succeed.

You'll probably never have to stand on a mountain and help someone hold up their hands. But you could. . .

- Help a friend clean up a neighbor's yard
- Help your mom with the laundry
- Get a friend to help you organize the books in your classroom

There are SO many ways you could work together to help someone succeed!

### A Little Help From My Friends

Grab two large books (like a Bible or dictionary), one in each hand. Ask someone to time you to see how long you can hold up the books with your arms outstretched. Record the time. Now find two friends to stand on either side and help you just like Aaron and Hur did. Record the time and compare it to your first one. How much longer could you stay in that position?

## DAY 2

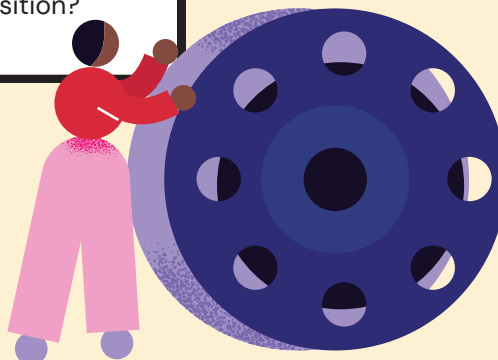
### Read Proverbs 27:17

Have you ever drawn or colored something with markers? Have you ever had the marker rub off on your hand when you were coloring? It's easy to end up with more marker on you than on the page sometimes!

That "rubbing off" idea is what this verse is all about. The way we treat others and cooperate will "rub off" on our friends. We have the potential to help someone else be successful when we choose to love and care and serve others. And as we do, hopefully those qualities will "rub off" on the people around us and help them to be loving and caring and willing to serve as well.

### Verse Reveal

Write this verse on an index card with a white marker. Now choose a friend to color over the entire card with a light colored crayon. The verse should be revealed underneath! Talk about what this verse means together.



## Read Ecclesiastes 4:12

What's stronger: one piece of string or two? What's more powerful: two pieces of string or three? Two is always better than one and three is always better than two when it comes to cooperation!

Can you think of some kids in your school that get picked on? Are those kids typically by themselves? You could do something about that. You could be the one to stand up to that bully. Even better, you could be the one to stand up with someone else to that bully, whether that's with your friend or teacher. Because two is always better than one. And three is always better than two.

### Friendship Bracelet

Create a friendship bracelet for someone who is left out. Find three pieces of string and tie them together with a knot at the end. Braid the three strands together until the braid is six inches long. Get an adult to help you if you need it. Tie another knot on the other end.

## Read Ecclesiastes 4:8

What's more fun:

Working alone or with a friend?

Celebrating hard work alone or with a friend?

Sometimes, being alone isn't so fun. Especially when you have a big job to do. In these verses, we see someone who works hard but has no help. And at the end of the day, all that hard work doesn't count for much because he doesn't have anyone to enjoy it with!

Sometimes you might think it would be better if you could just do the job yourself without having to rely on someone else. But God knows that we need each other. God knows that we'll get way more done when we choose to cooperate. And when the job is done, we'll be able to celebrate together too.

### Would You Rather

Look at the options below and circle the one you would rather do.

- |  |    |  |
|--|----|--|
| Clean up your room by yourself                 | OR | have a little help cleaning your room? |
| Put all your laundry away by yourself          | OR | work with your grownup on the laundry? |
| Clean up all the supper dishes all by yourself | OR | work with your brother?                |

**Work together to help someone succeed.**



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## DAY 1

### Read Luke 5:18-19

#### Carry Me

Have you ever tried to carry someone on a mat? It's harder than it looks! Grab a beach towel and attempt to carry one of your siblings from one room to another. Impossible, right? Can you imagine carrying a grown man all by yourself? Not possible. Now enlist some help from your family members. Was that easier?

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To get their friend in front of Jesus, these four friends had to cooperate and work together. Can you imagine how hard it must have been to carry their friend all the way to the house where Jesus was teaching?

But that wasn't their only obstacle. When they arrived, they realized that it was way too crowded to get him in through the door. No problem! They worked together again to carry him up to the roof, dig their way in and lower him down right in front of Jesus. Because they worked together, their friend met Jesus face to face. By cooperating, they changed their friend's life forever.

## DAY 2

### Read Luke 5:20

Did you notice the part of the verse where it says, "When Jesus saw their faith"? Jesus recognized that these friends believed in Him. They knew that Jesus could heal and forgive! And because they cooperated, the man was able to receive something even better than the ability to walk! Jesus forgave him. His life was completely changed because of his friends. They were willing to do whatever it took to get their friend to Jesus, believing that Jesus could help him.

The four friends saw a big need and worked together to make a difference in their friend's life. They chose to do something to help. It's not enough to see a need or even to talk about it. The important thing is to get busy working together to help.

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#### Ways To Help

What is a need you see around you? At your next family meal, take some time to discuss some needs in your community. Pick one need and make some plans to work together to help.

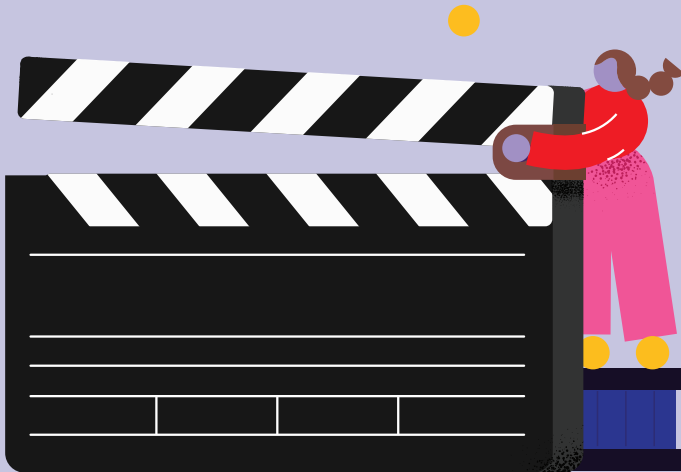
### Read Luke 5:25–26

When Jesus healed the man, what were the three things He did? Write them in the space below.

*He stood; He picked up his mat; He praised God.*

What if his friends had given up? What if they'd arrived at the house, witnessed how crowded it was and just turned back around? Or what if they decided it was a lost cause anyway and hadn't even attempted to get their friend to Jesus in the first place?

They could have done any of those things, but they didn't. Instead, they figured out a way to get their friend to Jesus. They didn't let the distance, the crowd, or even a roof get in their way. They worked together to help someone in need. And you can too when you choose to cooperate.



### Read Romans 15:5–6

Let's say you see a need and it's big— too big for you to handle on your own. You gather some friends to help you tackle it, but soon you start arguing because you all have different ideas of how to solve the problem.

Has anything like that ever happened to you?

The key to cooperation is to keep focusing on the goal—helping someone in need— and working to find solutions together. Cooperation will always take you further than flying solo.

#### Decode It!

Use the key below to decode the message:

|   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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*Answer: Work together to help someone in need.*

Work together to help someone in need.

# Cooperation is working together to do more than you can do alone.

## DAY 1

### Read Philippians 2:1-2

When you try to cooperate, do you sometimes find it hard to do? What if your idea is totally different from the person you're trying to work with? How do you decide which way is right? How do you get busy cooperating when you can't even get along?

Decide to do what this verse says. Agree with one another. Be gentle and loving to those around you. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus is WITH you and will help you cooperate with others. When you choose to cooperate, others around you will see a difference in you, because working together can point people to Jesus.

Think about a time when you didn't cooperate with a friend last week. Write down your friend's name and then list all the things you have in common that make them such a good friend. The next time you have a chance to work with this friend, remember this list so that you can cooperate better.

## DAY 2

### Read Hebrews 10:24-25

Sometimes, we want to do things on our own so that others will recognize us and we can get all the glory. When you cooperate, you are choosing to allow someone else to help you do something big. And that means that when the job is done, you share the credit too.

When you cooperate with others, you learn valuable lessons about teamwork and what it looks like to give and take. You learn how to listen and respond with kindness. You learn how your unique gifts add value. When you choose to help others to do good works, you're part of the body of Christ, the church. God has given us a BIG task—to tell others about Jesus—and God knows that we can do that through cooperation.

Think about a friend at school who doesn't know about Jesus. Talk to the kids in your small group and begin to pray for this friend. Ask God to show you how you might point this friend to Jesus.

DAY 3

## Read Acts 2:44-47

Have you ever seen a marching band perform? What happens if the tuba player decides he's more important than the rest of the group? What happens if he suddenly plays his own tune or struts out of formation on the field, dancing like a crazy person? The whole performance is ruined. All those hours of practicing wouldn't matter at all if a player or two decided to put himself before the rest of his fellow players.

The people who were part of the early church, the FIRST Jesus followers, knew how to do this well. Instead of thinking of themselves first, they put the needs of others first. They shared what they had and cooperated so that they could accomplish a really BIG task— telling others about Jesus!

Cooperation means thinking about others. It means understanding that your role, while very important, isn't MORE important than anyone else's. God needs all of us, with our unique gifts and abilities, to help others know about Jesus. Working together can point others to Jesus.



DAY 4

## Read John 13:35

Do you have a favorite team? When you watch that team on television, can you spot your fellow fans? Of course! They're the ones wearing your team colors, yelling all the team chants, and going crazy in the stands when your team scores.

As a follower of Jesus, you should be just as easy to spot as those fans in the stands. But not because you wear certain colors or yell certain cheers. The way people will know you're a part of "team Jesus" is by the way you love others. And cooperation is a BIG part of that. If you're one who always insists on your own way, that's not cooperation and it's certainly not loving. Pointing others to Jesus means loving others and choosing to work together.

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### John 13:35 Cheer

Take the words of today's verse and create your own rap or team cheer. You can rewrite the words of the verse to make it fit your rhyme; just make sure the message is the same.

Work together to  
point people to Jesus.