



COOPERATION | WEEK 1 | MARCH 2, 2025

Elementary Lesson

Come On, Let's Go

Monthly Virtue: Cooperation—Working together to do more than you can do alone

Bible Story: Come On, Let's Go (Jesus and His Followers) • *Luke 5:1-11, 27-32; 6:12-16; 8:1-3*

Key Question: When have you seen people work together?

Basic Truth: I am made for a purpose so I can tell people about God.

Memory Verse: Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do. *Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NIV)*

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Cooperation isn't always something that may happen naturally, but it is something that is near and dear to God's heart. Since the beginning of creation, we see how God created us to be in community with one another. Cooperation is a spiritual concept that originates with God, and throughout the Bible, we see how God brought people together to accomplish God's plan for the world. When we work together, we reflect Jesus to others, and our love for one another can point people to Him as we explore what God wants us to do together.

Key Question: When have you seen people work together?

Whether it's at school, at home, in sports, or with a hobby, kids are constantly learning to work together and are watching other people learn how to work together, too.

Seeing other people who have set a good (or bad) example of what it looks like to work together can inspire kids to want to work well together because they can do more and BETTER together than alone.

We start the month in *Luke 5:1-11, 27-32; 6:12-16; 8:1-3*. Here we see Jesus has started His ministry by gathering His disciples together. This was the most unlikely group of people, all from different backgrounds, but Jesus still called them to bring about His mission.

Pre-Service Check List

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → You're in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

Morning Flow

Doors Open
9:15/11:00

Large Group Starts
9:35/11:20

Small Group Starts
10:05/11:50

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME (3 Minutes)

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

LGL: “Welcome everyone! I’m so glad you are able to come hang out with us in KidCity today. My name is [INSERT NAME]. We are going to have a lot of fun today, but before we do let’s go over these announcements/KidCity Expectations.

(SLIDE: WATOTO) There is something special coming to Hope NEXT WEEK! Next Sunday, March 9 at 4PM at the Apex campus, come and see the Watoto children’s choir perform. Watoto is a community in Africa that helps orphans and widows and gives them a safe place to learn and grow. Their choir is AWESOME, and you saw some of their songs when you came in this morning AND you will have a chance to learn one of the dances during worship today!

(SLIDE: 5th SUNDAY FUNDAY) Once in a while there are 5 weeks in a month instead of 4 – and that’s awesome! It’s worth celebrating. The next 5th Sunday is at the end of this month, and we want you to come and bring your friends!

(SLIDE: BAPTISM) *(Said on the fourth weekend of the month only)* “Today are baptisms at Hope. Baptism is a way of telling the world that you love God and have made the decision to follow Him with your life. It’s a big deal! Is there anyone here who is getting baptized today? *(Pause and if someone is, go ahead and give them a high five and get the kids to clap).* Awesome!”

(SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS) “Now, let’s quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today: *(Don’t dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.)*

1. Be Kind
2. Be Safe
3. Have Fun

LARGE GROUP GAME (5 Min)

STRETCH AND GUESS

(Stretch and Guess Cards)

Let’s take a look at our monthly virtue.

(SLIDE: VIRTUE) Cooperation—Working together to do more than you can do alone.

How many of you have either been on a sports team or have seen them being played? Let’s imagine a football team. Shout out some of the different positions that players have (kicker, quarterback, running back, etc.). That’s a lot! Now imagine that you had to do all of those roles by yourself. How do you think that game would go? Not well! It’s better to do things in cooperation with others!

Check out our verse for the month...

(SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE) “Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do. *Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NirV)*”

Take a minute to explain that ‘Ecclesiastes’ is a book in the Old Testament, and that the first number means ‘chapter’ and the second one means ‘verse’. ‘NirV’ is what translation the Bible is in. The Bible wasn’t originally written in English! There are different translations.

You’ll have more time to practice this month’s verse, but for now let’s play a game!

(SLIDE: STRETCH ‘N’ GUESS)
(SLIDE: FUN MUSIC)

We’ll need some contestants who are really good at moving and stretching and arranging their bodies to look like different objects. That’s an important skill for any actor, don’t you think? Here, let me give you an example. What am I?

Stand straight and still with your hands at your sides.

(Listening to the kids’ answers) “I’m surprised you can’t get it. I’m a toothpick! How about this one?”

Bend slightly and drape your arms outward.

(Listening to the kids’ answers) “Good guesses . . . but I’m actually a palm tree.

“Clearly, we need more people to make this game work! Let me get two teams to come up on stage—three boys and three girls. And each team can bring up an adult leader.

HOW TO PLAY

- Create two teams using 3 boys and 3 girls with a small group leader. Be sure to pick kids that are wearing appropriate attire to be flexible.
- Explain that you will secretly show teams a picture of an object. They will have to move and stretch their bodies to try to have the audience guess what they are trying to create. You can give the card to the leader to hold so the girls/boys can reference it.
- The audience will shout out guesses but give them about 10 seconds to guess before moving on to the other team. If the audience gets it right in that time, then that team gets a point. If not, no points are awarded.
- Play until either all cards are used or 3 minutes have passed.

“That was so fun! Now everyone stand up and let’s worship God!”

WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)

(VIDEO: WE WILL GO TUTORIAL, WE WILL GO)

BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)

(No Supplies)

I don't know if you looked around lately, but there are a *lot* of people on this planet. And all of us are different—different hair styles, different heights, even different ages, different ideas, and different jobs. There are a crazy number of jobs and careers out there! For example, look at this picture. How many people and what different jobs do you think it took to build this?

(SLIDE: TESLA CYBERTRUCK)

(Pause for responses) “I mean, it's not the *prettiest* thing to look at, but boy, people would sure talk if you drove up to the fast-food drive-through in that thing. Okay, last one; just think about it—don't answer. How many jobs would it take to do this?”

(SLIDE: PICTURE OF SOMEONE OFFERING FOOD TO AN UNHOUSED PERSON)

Maybe it only takes one person to take care of someone who has a specific need. But when you look at a need or problem that impacts a whole part of our population, it takes a whole lot of people to address the *whole* problem, doesn't it? Giving one person one meal for one lunch on one day is great, but to really make a change for why someone might face a time in their lives when they are without a home or have little access to food, we need to figure out a way for lots of people to cooperate and create big solutions.

“And if we, as humans, can work together and have the engineering ingenuity to craft a sleek, obnoxious looking electric truck, why is it often difficult for us to work together and focus on solving some real problems that impact a lot of people?”

“It's so obvious that when we work together well, great things can happen. But what would happen if we focused on working together to help others or change the course of someone's life . . . and really made a difference? Each of us might be different, from different places, different families, and even different cultures—but how can we figure out how to work together? How can we remember that working together is a *hugely* important part of life and living the life God has for us?”

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY 5 MIN)

I want you all to take a look around this room really quick. (*adapt the following to make sense with your environment*) We have our room coach, we have our small group leaders, worship leaders, techs, the people who printed out your stickers earlier...there are so many people who work together each and every Sunday to accomplish a common goal. We all work together because we all believe that the most important thing is that you all would come to have a right relationship with God and to grow in your faith journey.

The example given to us by the disciples is a great one. Those people couldn't have been more different from one another! But they had one thing in common, one thing that kept them all together, working alongside one another. That one thing—that one Person—was Jesus.

“He is the cornerstone. The lynchpin. The common ground. He is the One we can all agree upon when we’re disagreeing with one another. If we keep Jesus in mind, unbelievable things can get accomplished when we work together well.

Look around. There are all kinds of people in this room, and they’re all different from you. They have different ways of thinking about things, they take things differently, they learn differently, and they act differently. However, amazing things happen when people from all walks of life come together and figure out how to work side by side. Check out our Basic Truth for today...

(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH) I am made for a purpose so I can tell people about God.

“As we head to Small Groups, we want you to consider this question:

(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION) ‘When have you seen people work together?’

Have kids turn and talk to their shoulder partner for 60 seconds. Your KQ slide on Playlister will keep track of time for you. While kids are talking, walk around and listen in to what they are saying and give prompts if needed. Don’t try to resolve anything, kids will have a further discussion within their small group time.

“Ok friends, come back together in 3, 2, 1....

“I heard some great thoughts floating around. You are going to have more of a chance to talk about this in small group time, but for now let’s pray.

Dear God, I pray that we are faithful with the gifts and talents you’ve given us and use them to bring people to you. I pray that we look at the things that make us different and appreciate those differences. Amen.

DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS



SMALL GROUP

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TALK ABOUT IT (K-5th)

There are no right or wrong answers but try to challenge the kids to think deeper.

Key Question: When have you seen people at work? Why do you think it's important that Christians work together?

(Answers will vary: we all have God-given gifts that are different than each other's, but we all have the same goal - to tell people about Jesus, etc.)

LOOK IT UP (K-5th)

Grab Bibles, look up, and read the following passage.

Look Up: **Ecclesiastes 4:9**

Say: "The book of Ecclesiastes is found in the Old Testament, and it was written by King Solomon – the wisest and richest king ever. In this book, Solomon is saying that he's tried everything that the world has to offer, but in the end, it was all meaningless compared to a life of following God's wisdom and law."

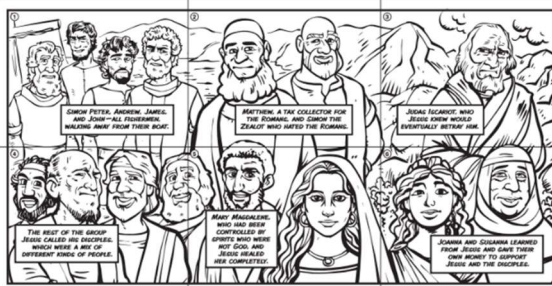
PRACTICE IT (K-5th)

("Collaborate & Color" Activity Page – 1 set per group, Crayons/Markers)

What You Do:

- Place the six "Collaborate & Color" Activity Pages in different areas of your group space (on the floor or a table).
- Make coloring supplies available in each area.
- Assign 1 or 2 kids to one of the six pages.
 - NOTE: If there are six kids or fewer in your group, each kid will have one piece to themselves or allow the kids to color more than one piece.
- Explain that you will give them 60 to 90 seconds to color the page and then they will pass it to the group on the right and they will continue to color the new page and then after the times up pass the page again. After the pages have been passed 3 times, coloring time is up.
- Once everyone is finished, read through the following points.

- As you read, direct the groups to lay down the pages they colored, placing each one they colored together to form a mural (it will form a 2x3 grid)



- “Jesus called so many ordinary people to be His disciples. Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John were two sets of brothers and fishermen” (Place page one on the floor.)
 - “Jesus invited Matthew to join Him, a tax collector, and then Simon the Zealot, who hated the Romans.” (Place page two next to page one.)
 - “Jesus even included a man named Judas Iscariot, even though He knew Judas would eventually betray him.” (Place page three next to page two.)
 - “Several others were part of the group Jesus called his disciples. They were a mix of all different kinds of people!” (Place page four under page one.)
 - “Women traveled with and learned from Jesus, too! Like Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna.” (Place page five next to page four.)
 - “Joanna and Susanna learned from Jesus and gave their own money to support Jesus and the disciples.” (Place page six next to page five to complete the picture!)
- Once the mural has been put together, give the kids a moment to observe the whole picture.
- Explain that every piece of the mural was necessary for completing the picture, similar to how Jesus chose ordinary, everyday people to be His disciples. Everyone in this small group contributed to the whole picture to create a beautiful, finished piece.
- Share with kids that the disciples came from all different backgrounds, but they used their gifts and abilities to work with Jesus and spread the Good News of God’s love.
- 3rd -5th Grade Extension:** Gather kids together and ask the following questions.
 - When have you seen people work together?
 - Why is it better to work together?
 - How did Jesus cooperate with others?
 - How does our uniqueness play a role in how we work together?
 - What can be challenging about working together?

GET STRONGER (K-5th)

(Memory Verse Poster)

What You Do:

- Review the Memory Verse using the Memory Verse Poster.
- Divide the kids into pairs.
- Explain that they will work together to come up with motions to help them memorize the verse. Each pair may come up with different motions! The sillier the better.
- Say the following sections of the verse one at a time, giving kids an opportunity to work together to come up with a motion/movement after each section. Each time you add a new

section, say the previous ones. For example, ‘Two people are better.... *(pause)*...Two people are better than one... *(Pause)*...’

- Two people are better
 - than one.
 - They can help each other
 - in everything they do.
 - Ecclesiastes 4:9
- Allow groups to say and demonstrate their motions to everyone.

PRAYER

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to stand in a tight circle.
- Before praying, remind the kids that they can pray anytime, anywhere! God wants us to pray for each other and pray together!

“Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus. We want to follow Him like the disciples did. Help us to work together and show others your love. We love you, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, kids should stay in their small groups!