



COOPERATION | WEEK 4 | MARCH 23, 2025

Elementary Lesson

We're All In This Together

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

Bible Story: We're All in This Together (One Body, Many Parts) • *1 Corinthians 12:12-27*

Key Question: What part can you play?

Basic Truth: I am made for a purpose so the Holy Spirit will help me do big things now.

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: What part can you play? The preteen years are the perfect time for kids to explore their role in the church — and we all have a role we can play! We hope to give preteens the chance to figure out how God has uniquely gifted them to help point their friends and family to Jesus.

Week 4 we are in *1 Corinthians 12:12-27* with the early church. Arguments had broken out and sides were taken as the believers struggled to come together. Paul wrote to them, encouraging them to use their differences as they work together to tell others about Jesus because their gifts work best together.

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: 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)

FAST FOOD EMOJIS

(Paper, Writing Utensils)

Let’s take a look at our monthly virtue.

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

We have opportunities every week to work together with people around us. Biblical cooperation is more focused on working together to help people know God, grow in their faith, and to be encouraged. 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: FAST FOOD EMOJIS)
(SLIDES #1-34)

I've got a game for everyone to play! Go ahead and get into groups of 5 to 10 (or small groups)

HOW TO PLAY

- **EXPLAIN:** You will show pictures of emojis on the screen and the groups will have to guess what fast food chain (like McDonalds) it is. Groups will write down their guess on their paper.
- **PLAY:** Go through the slides one at a time. Have each team keep track of how many they get right - honor system!

"That was so fun! Now everyone stand up and let's worship God!"

WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)
(VIDEO: BURN, PRAISE)

BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)
(No Supplies)

Let's imagine this.... imagine that I asked you guys to help make me a milkshake. The catch is each of you could only use one body part. One person can only use one arm to scoop the ice cream, one person can only use their foot to pour in the milk, one person can only use their ear to add in the Oreos, and so on. It would be SUPER difficult for any of those people to do it on their own! It is better to cooperate together to accomplish the goal.

Now, making milkshakes isn't that difficult. But what about bigger things, like following Jesus? Living life with wisdom? Helping others? What's the role you're supposed to play in those things? More than that, how can you even find out?

"It's a tricky question. You can't just say, 'Oh, I'll just help people.' Or 'I'll just be super nice.' It's not as simple as that. God created you to be unique, and to uniquely help others. Your gifts will partner with other people's gifts, and coordinating and cooperating with others can accomplish amazing things.

"But getting there? Figuring all of that out? Finding your role to play? That's the difficult part. It's a good thing we've got this (*hold up Bible*) to help. In the Bible we can find all sorts of truth and wisdom to help us trust God and follow Jesus in every aspect of our lives . . . including how we discover how we can work together with cooperation. Let's watch our Bible story video...

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY 5 MIN)

We're all gifted at different things, right? Some are super-smart, and others are super-athletic. Some are great at giving gifts, and others are master musicians. Some are great listeners, and



some are fierce friends. And even with all our differences, we need one another!

“You may feel like you don’t have a lot to offer. You might not know yet where your gifts lie . . . and that’s okay. This is something we’ll never stop learning about ourselves. Or what if you aren’t as talented, or athletic, or fast, or smart, or popular, or quick to figure things out as someone else?

“Paul wrote: *‘The parts of the body that seem to be weaker are the ones we can’t do without (1 Corinthians 12:22, NIV).*

“That means the body of Christ needs *everyone*. Especially you. You’re incredibly valuable to the work God is doing in this world. Each one of us, me included, is a part of the body of Christ. And if we can figure out how to work together, not to focus on our differences and how they keep us apart but to focus on how our differences complement one another through cooperation, we can really show this world what Jesus is like . . . and change lives along the way.”

There are so many ways and opportunities to work together to make a big difference in the world around us. Any time you step out, especially if it makes you feel a little uncomfortable, it’s a big deal! Any time we talk about doing big things in KidCity we remind ourselves of this Basic Truth..

(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH) I am made for a purpose so the Holy Spirit will help me do big things now.

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

(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION) What part can you play?

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: What part can you play?

(Answers will vary: I can take a spiritual assessment test to figure out my spiritual gifts, I can ask people that know me well what my gifts are, etc.)

LOOK IT UP (K-5th)

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

Look Up: **1 Corinthians 12:7-11**

Say: “The book of 1 Corinthians was written by Paul to the church in Corinth who was having a LOT of issues! Amongst other things, the church in Corinth had a problem with comparing themselves to each other and thinking that some spiritual gifts were better than others. Paul lists out some spiritual gifts in this passage, but immediately after he talks about what we learned in the Bible story today!

**NOTE: SPIRITUAL gifts come AFTER you have a relationship with Jesus. You may be more naturally gifted towards some things, but it is a spiritual gift when God uses it and grows it within you to further spread the Good News of the Gospel and to grow His church.*

PRACTICE IT (K-5th)

(“Spiritual Gift Matching Cards” Activity Page [K/1 and 2nd-5th versions], (1) precut per group and (1) uncut version for each SG Leader)

What You Do:

- Explain that there are more spiritual gifts than are listed in the “Look it Up” section above, but we are going to go over some of them today.
- Lay out the spiritual gifts cards (the ones with just words like “teaching” and “faith”) in a line and say them out loud.
- Mix up the definitions and pass them out to the kids *(The K/1st version will have icons that*

match to help kids know what definition goes with which gift).

- One by one, have the kids work together to read their definition out loud and match it with the corresponding spiritual gift. For example, “Helping others feel strong and hopeful.” would match with “Encouragement”.
 - *There will be an uncut version so you can check the correct match up of definitions.*
- After all of the gifts and their definitions have been matched, go around and ask kids what they think their top 1-2 gifts are. Be sure to say your own!
- After identifying their top gifts, go ahead and ask them what they think their *lowest* gift is. For example, it may come easy for you to share the good news of the Gospel with others (evangelism), but you have a really hard time being generous (giving).
 - Be sure to tie this conversation back with the story from today!
- Next, mix all of the cards up and lay them face down in a grid to play a memory match game. Kids will take turns flipping over two cards, trying to get a match. If they don’t get a match, then they flip the cards back over and the next person goes.

GET STRONGER (K-5th)

(Memory Verse Poster)

What You Do:

- Review the memory verse. Repeat the verse together two or three times.
- Direct the kids to sit in a circle and place the poster in the middle of the group.
- Explain that you’re going to play a game called “Duck, Duck, Memory Verse.”
- Share the rules:
 - You will select a kid to be the “tapper.”
 - The group will say the words of the verse as the “tapper” taps each kid on the head.
 - When the group gets to the verse reference (“Ecclesiastes 4:9”), the kid whose head is tapped will jump up and chase the “tapper” around the circle.
 - If the tapper returns to the other kid’s open spot without being tagged, that kid becomes the “tapper.”
 - If the “tapper” gets tagged, they stay as the “tapper” for the next round.
- Continue playing as long as time allows so that as many kids as possible get to be the tapper.

What You Say:

“That was so much fun! I loved playing ‘Duck, Duck, Memory Verse!’ with each of you. Why are two people better than one? (*Invite responses.*) That’s right! This verse reminds us that God wants us to work together because we can help each other. We can do amazing things to point people to Jesus when we cooperate. So, we should always work together to point people to Jesus.”

PRAYER

“God, thank You for sending Jesus to show us how much You love us. Today we pray for everyone we mentioned who doesn’t know Jesus yet. Help us to work together and show Your love to them through our words and actions. We want to work together to point people to Jesus through our words and actions this week. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”