

Cooperation

WORKING TOGETHER

to do more than you can do alone



READ EXODUS 31:1-11

DAY 1

This month is all about cooperation—working together to do more than you can do alone. When God told the Israelites to build the tabernacle, it was no small job! He knew that it would be impossible for one person to tackle it all by himself. So he gave specific instructions on how he wanted them to work together, like the ones we read in these verses.

God still wants us to do big things for him. But he doesn't want us to attempt them on our own. He's given each of us different skills and abilities. When you cooperate and join your gifts and abilities with other people's gifts and abilities, you can accomplish something big.

Read these verses again. In the box to the right, circle some of the items God instructed the Israelites to craft for the tabernacle.

THANK God for being able to cooperate with people around you .

- The ark of the covenant
- A table for the holy bread
- A bicycle built for two
- A gold lampstand
- An altar for burnt offerings
- A castle made of Legos
- Special garments for Aaron
- A bedazzled new hoodie

READ EXODUS 35:21

DAY 2

When they finished building the tabernacle, the people gathered to worship God. And one big way they worshipped was to bring their offerings. Everyone brought something. Everything they brought helped create a beautiful place to worship God.

We bring our offerings too, but they look a little different. Every week when you gather with other Christians, you have the chance to bring an offering to God. The leaders at church use the money you bring to do the works of God in your church and community. By bringing your offering, even if it doesn't seem like all that much, you're saying that you trust God to take your gift along with the gifts of others and use them to make an even bigger difference.

So what can you bring? An offering doesn't have to be money. It can also be a way you choose to serve others. Read this verse to a grown up, maybe even your whole family. How could you work together and cooperate to get God's work done?

ASK God to help you choose how to serve Him and give an offering this week.



Cooperation

WORKING TOGETHER

to do more than you can do alone



READ GENESIS 2:18-22

DAY 3

When God created Adam, he declared that it was "very good." But something was missing. When Adam looked at all the animals, not one would be a good helper for him. Something was still missing. God saw that Adam was alone, but God never wanted it that way.

So what did God do? He put Adam in a deep sleep and created Eve. When Adam woke up, he was so happy. Here was the perfect friend for him. It's important for us to see that from the very beginning God knew that we would need each other. He didn't want for us to be alone.

That's just one reason why cooperation is so important. You will always be able to do more for God when you work with others. When you start to wish you were "just by yourself", remember God's words. "It is not good for man to be alone."

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

LOOK for ways to work together to get God's work done

READ ECCLESIASTES 4:9-10

DAY 4

*Riding a seesaw
Talking on a pair of walkie-talkies*

*Playing catch
"Hide and Go-Seek"*

Know what all these things have in common? Each of these things requires at least two people. If you got onto 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 need two people.

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

Show this verse to a friend or sibling and challenge them to memorize it with you. Grab a ball and find some open space. 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.

KNOW that God loves it when we choose to cooperate!

We can work together to get God's work done.

Cooperation

WORKING TOGETHER

to do more than you can do alone



READ EXODUS 17:12

DAY 1

Grab two large books (like a Bible or dictionary) and put one in each hand. Ask an adult to time you to see how long you can hold up the books on your own. Write down the time. Now find two friends to stand on either side and help you just like Aaron and Hur did. Don't forget to time yourself. Compare the two times. How much longer could you stay in that position?

In our Bible story this week, what happened when Moses' arms got tired? They began to lose the battle. Aaron and Hur noticed what was happening and they helped Moses by cooperating with one another. Aaron and Hur chose to work together to help Moses succeed.

You'll probably never have to stand on a mountain and help someone hold up his hands. But you could help a friend clean up a neighbor's yard or you could help your Mom with the laundry. Or you and a classmate could stay in during recess to help organize the books in your classroom. Look for ways to help this week.

THANK God for the people who help you everyday.

READ PROVERBS 27:17

DAY 2

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

That's sorta what this verse is all about. The way we treat others and cooperate will influence 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 the people around will be loving and caring and willing to serve as well.

Write this verse on an index card with marker. Color over the entire card with crayon. Now choose a friend to rub the crayon off with a penny to reveal the verse underneath. Talk about what this verse means together.

ASK God to help you cooperate and impact the people around you.





Cooperation

WORKING TOGETHER

to do more than you can do alone



READ ECCLESIASTES 4:12

DAY 3

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

Think about a bully. Usually bullies pick on kids who are alone because they make easier targets. 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 make friends with those kids. And what's even better, you could include them in your group of friends. Because two is always better than one. And three is always better than two.

Create a friendship bracelet for someone that 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 in the end.

LOOK for ways to work together to help someone else succeed.

READ ECCLESIASTES 4:8

DAY 4

What's more fun? Working alone or with a friend? What's more fun? Celebrating hard work alone or with a friend? Sometimes being alone is no fun. Especially when you have a big job to do. In these verses, we see someone who works hard, but has no one to 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. He 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.

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

Would you rather?

Clean up your room by yourself or have a little help.

Put all your laundry away by yourself or work with your Mom.

Clean up all the supper dishes or work with your brother.

KNOW that God loves it when we help someone else succeed.

We can work together to help someone else succeed.

Cooperation

WORKING TOGETHER

to do more than you can do alone

WEEK
Three

READ LUKE 5:18-19

DAY 1

Have you ever tried to carry someone on a mat? Why not give it a try. Grab a big towel and attempt to carry a friend or sibling from one room to another. Impossible right? Can you imagine carrying a grown man all by yourself? Not possible. Now ask for some help. Was that easier?

In these verses, 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 to the house where Jesus was teaching? And then when they arrived, they realized that it was way too crowded to get him in the 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.

THANK God for friends who are willing to cooperate!

READ LUKE 5:20

DAY 2

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 He could help their friend.

Do you sometimes feel like it's hard to stand up and do the right thing? Do you think it's hard sometimes to point others to Jesus? Why? Would it be easier if you had some help? Think about the friends at your church. How could you work together to change someone else's life? Write down some ideas and take them to church this week.

ASK God to help you cooperate with others to make a difference.





Cooperation

WORKING TOGETHER

to do more than you can do alone

WEEK
Three

READ LUKE 5:25-26

DAY 3

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

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?

But they didn't. They figured out a way to work together to get that man to Jesus. And because they cooperated not only was the man able to walk, but Jesus forgave him! The man stood up, picked up his mat and went home, praising God the whole way!

Have you ever wanted to give up when things were too hard? Think about these friends. They didn't let the distance or the crowd or even a roof get in their way. They worked together to change that man's life. And you can too when you choose to cooperate.

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

LOOK for ways to work together and do something big for God.

READ ROMANS 15:5-6

DAY 4

It's hard to cooperate with others sometimes, isn't it? When that happens, the best place to start is prayer.

Our verse for today reminds us that we can pray to help us get along with one another. When you start to feel yourself getting frustrated or angry when you're trying to cooperate, stop and pray. Remember that cooperation and working together is ALWAYS better than working alone.

Write out a prayer. Pick a friend that you're having a hard time getting along with and ask God to give you "one mind and one voice."

KNOW that God will help you when you need Him.

Dear God,

We can work together to change someone's life.



Cooperation

WORKING TOGETHER

to do more than you can do alone

WEEK
Four

READ PHILIPPIANS 2:1-2

DAY 1

Let's be honest, sometimes it's hard to cooperate. When your idea of how something should be done is totally different from the person you're trying to work with, how do you decide which way is right? How can you cooperate when you can't even get along?

Start with today's verse. Agree with one another. Be gentle and loving to those around you. Since you are made in the image of God, you are able to cooperate with others, even people you don't always get along with. If you follow Jesus, He is WITH you and will help you cooperate with others. When you choose to cooperate, others around will see a difference in you. Working together can point people to Jesus. Isn't that amazing?

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

Friends Name:

Things in Common:

THANK God for giving you opportunities to work together this week.

READ HEBREWS 10:24-25

DAY 2

When you cooperate, you are choosing to allow someone else to help you do something. And that means that when the job is done, you share the credit too. Sometimes, we want to do things on our own so that others will recognize us and get all the glory. But instead of thinking about the praise you might receive in the end, think about what you might learn through the process.

When you cooperate with others, you learn valuable lessons about teamwork, like how to listen and respond with kindness or how to use your unique gifts to help others, not to mention getting the chance to see how other people can contribute too. 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 His son Jesus—and He knows that we can accomplish it through cooperation.

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

ASK God to help you cooperate with others to point your friends to Jesus.





Cooperation

WORKING TOGETHER

to do more than you can do alone



READ ACTS 2:44-47

DAY 3

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, they put the needs of others first. They shared what they had and cooperated so that they could accomplish and 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. Because working together can point others to Jesus.

LOOK for ways to work together to point others to Jesus.

READ JOHN 13:35

DAY 4

How do people know if you are a follower of Jesus? One BIG way is by cooperating with others. Working with others was a big deal to Jesus. Think about this. When Jesus began his ministry on earth one of the first things he did was recruit His twelve disciples.

Jesus chose twelve men to travel with him and help Him in His ministry. Was He powerful enough to do things on His own? Absolutely. But He set a pretty clear example for us. We can accomplish WAY more for God with others than we ever could on our own.

Grab a box of Legos or something else with small pieces and dump it out. Set a timer and start picking up the mess. How long did it take? Now recruit your brother or sister or neighbor or dog (okay, maybe not your dog). Dump out the Legos again and see how long it takes you to pick up the mess with a little help.

KNOW that God wants us to cooperate and help others see Jesus.

Working together can point people to Jesus.