

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.





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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.