

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

DAY 1

Read Exodus 39:42–43

This month, we'll talk about cooperation, which we've defined as working together to do more than you can do alone.

God wants us to work together, not just because we'll get more done but because getting things done will be way more fun with friends! This week, when you find yourself hanging out with your friends, stop and thank God for that friend. Ask God to help you cooperate so you can do more than you can do alone.

DAY 2

Read Colossians 3:14–15

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!

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In the same way the parts of your body work together, God wants us to cooperate 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.

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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. As you write, thank God for your friends and ask for help to show love and care for them as you cooperate to get more done.



DAY 3

Read Ephesians 4:16

Support and cooperation go hand in hand. Remember, cooperation was God's idea from the beginning. He wants us to work together, to help each other. So how about a little cooperation challenge?

Cooperation Bowl

1. Grab some cotton balls or cotton swabs.
2. Dump all the items on one end of your kitchen table.
3. Place a bowl on the opposite side of the table.
4. 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!

1. Grab a family member or friend to stand on the opposite side of the table.
2. Set a timer for one minute to see how many items you can move to the bowl
3. Same rules apply, only move one item at a time. Ready? Go!

How many items did you move alone?

Clearly, you can do more together than you can do alone! Let's look for ways to help or support each other as we cooperate this week.

DAY 4

Read Acts 2:42-47

After Jesus returned to heaven, His closest friends, the disciples, traveled around telling everyone about Jesus and all He had done. They started churches, groups of believers who helped each other. These verses in Acts tell us a lot about how they cooperated and worked together.

Unscramble the words below.

1. They and together.
T A E D P E Y A R
2. They everything they had.
D R S A E H
3. They to anyone who needed something.
V A E G

Those first believers understood that they could reach more people with the good news about Jesus if they helped each other and cooperated!

So what could you do? Circle or highlight one of the statements above and ask God to help you pray for others, share with others or give to others when they ask this week.

Answers: 1. Ate and prayed 2. Shared 3. Gave

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work together.

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DAY 1

Read Hebrews 10:24

When you run a race or play a game, what do you try to do? Win, right? In a competition, winning is what we're after. But in relationships, winning should never be the goal!

Cooperation means working together to do more than you can do alone. When you cooperate, you are choosing to allow others to help you do something big. That means that when the job is done, you share the credit with others.

It's tempting to want to be the hero, to get all the glory. But it's not really about the praise you receive in the end. It's about the process it took to get there. When you cooperate, you get a chance to combine your gifts and talents with the gifts and talents of others. You learn how to listen and respond with kindness. When you cooperate, you have the opportunity to help others do more good. And you get to be a part of accomplishing more together than you could ever do on your own.

This week, instead of thinking about winning, change the goal to finding ways to cooperate instead. Ask God to help you work as a team so you can get more done!

DAY 2

Read Ephesians 4:32

Think about the last time you had to work with a group to get something done. Did you take charge and expect everyone to follow you? Did you contribute your ideas and listen to the ideas of others? Or did you fade into the background, letting others take the lead?

We all have different personalities. Some of us are natural leaders, ready to take charge. Some of us are quieter and need time to think about a strategy or plan before we jump in with both feet. In any group, you'll find different gifts and personalities. **If you want to cooperate, one big way to accomplish this goal is by choosing to be kind.**

It means not interrupting if you think your idea is better.

It means listening more than you talk.

It means being willing to speak up in a kind way to offer a solution.

What is one thing you could do the next time you find yourself in a group to help others around you succeed?



DAY 3

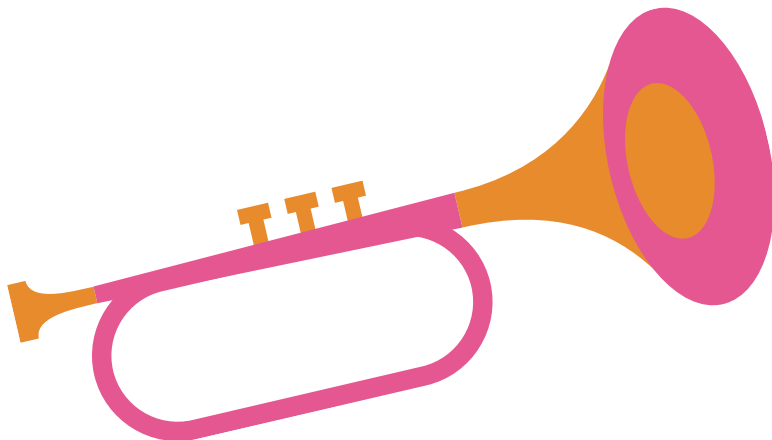
Read Proverbs 27:17

Have you ever noticed how a marker can bleed on to your hands or table? As you think about that marker rubbing off on your hand, reread this verse. The way we treat others, the way we cooperate, has the potential to “rub off” on the people around us. When we choose to work together, when we listen to another person’s ideas, hopefully those things will “rub off” on the people around us! And when we do, we not only get more done, we can help others succeed.



Marker Maker

1. Grab an index card and write out the words from today’s verse on the card.
2. Don’t let the marker “ink” dry and see how much marker rubs off on your hands!
3. Ask God to help you cooperate this week so that you can help others succeed.



DAY 4

Read Galatians 6:2

Would you rather . . .

Clean your room by yourself or have a little help?
Finish a big project for school alone or work with a group?
Cover all the positions on the soccer field by yourself or be a part of a team?

Have you ever had a big job to do and realized you were the only one to get it done? It’s way more fun to have a friend or family member to help you. And sometimes, the task in front of us is so big we just can’t do it by ourselves.

God knew we would need each other. God knows that we will get way more done when we choose to cooperate! And when the big job is done, we’ll have someone to celebrate with too.



Verse Weight

1. Grab something heavy from the kitchen like a big soup can or a gallon of milk. Repeat the words of today’s verse as you carry the item around your house with one hand.
2. Say the verse five times without switching hands?



Work together to help someone succeed.

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DAY 1

Read 1 Peter 4:10

Think about your birthday. When someone brings you a gift to celebrate, what do you do? Duh—you open it! You enjoy it. (And hopefully, you remember to say, “Thank you!”)

God has given you specific gifts and abilities that make you, you! But just like you wouldn’t leave a birthday gift unwrapped, God wants you to use the gifts for good.

But it goes even further than that! When you combine your gifts with the gifts of other people around you, you can do even more good! When you cooperate and work together, you can help more help in need.

Family Gifts

1. As you sit with your family at your next meal, read today’s verse.
2. Go around the table and let each person share one gift they see in the person to their left.
3. Then talk about how you could use these gifts together to help someone in need.

DAY 2

Read Luke 5:18–19

Imagine if you had been one of those four friends who carried the man all the way to the home where Jesus was teaching. Imagine moving him all that way there, only to realize that you couldn’t through the door. Then imagine being so determined to see this thing all the way through that you actually lowered your friend through the roof so that he could see Jesus for himself.

Because these friends saw a need and chose to work together, their friend’s life was changed forever. Because they cooperated, the man who never walked not only met Jesus but walked away to tell everyone all about it! **You will always be able to do more, to make an even bigger impact when you choose to cooperate.**




DAY 3

Read Romans 12:16

Is it ever hard to work with others? What if you have a different idea? What if you really think your idea is better? What if another person in your group bugs you or gets on your nerves?

Even if all those things are true, you don't get a pass. As followers of Jesus, we are called to put others first. **When we stop thinking about what we want and start thinking about what's best for others, then cooperation can really take off!** And when we do, we'll get so much more done.

Think of the last time you worked with a group or team. Was there someone who really bugged you? Have you ever prayed for that person? Spend some time in prayer today and ask God to forgive you if you've ever treated that person unfairly or in an unkind way. Thank God for loving you always and ask for help to love that person.




DAY 4

Read 1 Corinthians 3:9

1. Grab some LEGO® blocks and build a simple house using the bricks you have.
2. Take a look at your house. Is there one brick that's more important than the others? It takes all those bricks working together to create a strong, sturdy house.

You are like one of those bricks. God made you with specific gifts and abilities to help and serve others. God also made everyone else with specific gifts and abilities to help to serve others too. When you combine all those gifts, you can help even more people in need.

Can you think of a need in your community that you could meet if you had a little help? Maybe there are kids at school that need coats for cold weather. Could you host a coat drive at school? Is there a park near your home that could use some clean up help? What if you organized a workday to collect trash? Talk to an adult about a need in your community and brainstorm ways you could rally a group of people together to cooperate and meet that need!



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DAY 1

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9

Playing catch or “Hide and Seek”
Riding on a seesaw
Talking on a pair of walkie talkies

These things require more than one person! If you hopped on a seesaw by yourself, you’d just sit there with one end up in the air. If you picked up a walkie talkie with no one on the other end, your conversation wouldn’t last very long.

That’s why two are truly better than one! Not only can you get more done, you can have way more fun with a friend along for the ride. What if we practiced cooperation? What if we worked on working together to make it a habit?

Verse Friends

1. Show today’s verse to a friend and challenge them to memorize it with you.
2. Grab a ball and head outside.
3. Toss the ball back and forth as you repeat the words of the verse.
4. If one of you drops the ball, start back at the beginning of the verse.
5. Repeat until you can both say the verse from memory.



DAY 2

Read John 13:35

When Jesus started His ministry, do you know what He did first? Did He start a YouTube channel to get His message out and reach thousands of new followers? Nope. Instead, Jesus did something super important. He recruited twelve apostles to travel with Him and help Him in His ministry.

Was Jesus powerful enough to do what He needed to do without these men? Absolutely! But He chose to cooperate, to work with these men to change the whole world. He wanted those disciples to love others the way He loved them. That same message is for those of us who follow Jesus today. When we love others the way He loves us, when we cooperate with other believers around us to share this same message, we can reach more people.

Ask God to help you cooperate this week and love those three the way Jesus loves you.





DAY 3

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Name a bad habit you'd like to quit.

(Examples: biting your nails, eating too much candy)

Name a good habit you'd like to start.

(Example: going to bed on time, brushing your teeth twice a day)

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What if you made cooperation or working together a habit? One way to start is by looking for ways to encourage others! When you point out the good things you see about someone else, when you take time to say, "Great job" and be specific with your praise, others will want to work with you! When you take time to build others up, not only will you get more done but you'll have stronger friendships with the people around you.

Grab a friend and bin of LEGO® or Jenga blocks. Set a timer for one minute and see who can build the tallest tower. Then, take them apart but this time, work together to build one tower. As you work, look for opportunities to encourage your partner. Which tower was taller? Which tower was more fun to build?

**Ask God to help you be an encourager this week as practice the habit of cooperation this week!**

### DAY 4

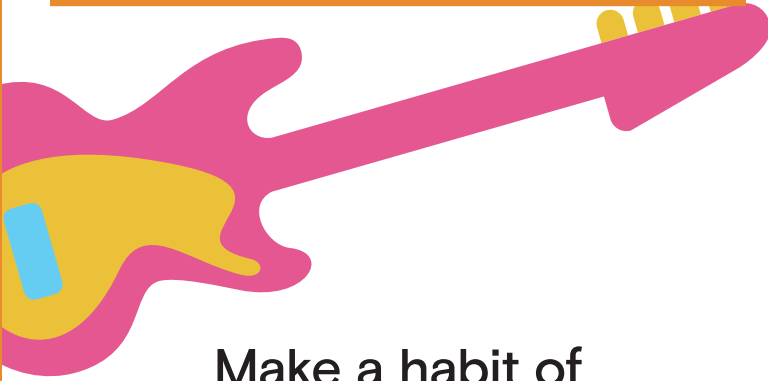
## Read Amos 3:3

Have you ever seen a marching band perform? Each band member must cooperate and play the right note and take the right step in the right direction at the right time or the whole performance will be ruined! Each person in the band agrees to play their part and work together.

You can't cooperate with two people who want to have their own way. You can't cooperate with two people who keep interrupting each other thinking their idea or their way is better. The best cooperators are the people who practice cooperating!

So how do you do that? **Stop and listen. Look for opportunities to help. Put others first.**

What is one other way you could "practice" cooperation in order to make it a habit?



**Make a habit of working together.**