

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

DAY 1

Read Philippians 2:1–2

When you try to cooperate, do you sometimes find it hard to do? What if your idea is totally different from the person you're trying to work with? How do you decide which way is right? How do you get busy cooperating when you can't even get along?

Decide to do what this verse says. Agree with one another. Be gentle and loving to those around you. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus is WITH you and will help you cooperate with others. When you choose to cooperate, others around you will see a difference in you, because working together can point people to Jesus.

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

DAY 2

Read Hebrews 10:24–25

Sometimes, we want to do things on our own so that others will recognize us and we can get all the glory. When you cooperate, you are choosing to allow someone else to help you do something big. And that means that when the job is done, you share the credit too.

When you cooperate with others, you learn valuable lessons about teamwork and what it looks like to give and take. You learn how to listen and respond with kindness. You learn how your unique gifts add value. 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 Jesus—and God knows that we can do that through cooperation.

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

DAY 3

Read Acts 2:44-47

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

DAY 4

Read John 13:35

Do you have a favorite team? When you watch that team on television, can you spot your fellow fans? Of course! They're the ones wearing your team colors, yelling all the team chants, and going crazy in the stands when your team scores.

As a follower of Jesus, you should be just as easy to spot as those fans in the stands. But not because you wear certain colors or yell certain cheers. The way people will know you're a part of "team Jesus" is by the way you love others. And cooperation is a BIG part of that. If you're one who always insists on your own way, that's not cooperation and it's certainly not loving. Pointing others to Jesus means loving others and choosing to work together.

John 13:35 Cheer

Take the words of today's verse and create your own rap or team cheer. You can rewrite the words of the verse to make it fit your rhyme; just make sure the message is the same.



Work together to
point people to Jesus.