

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

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.**

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.

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!

Work together to help someone in need.