

COOPERATION

Working together to do more than you can do alone

WEEK
ONE
2ND-3RD GRADE

READ PHILIPPIANS 2:1-2

DAY 1

(Note: This month, you'll probably need to call on a family member or friend to complete these activities . . . it's kind of hard to practice cooperation alone, after all!)

Round up as many family members as you can to play a quick game of telephone. Whisper the phrase below from Philippians 2:1-2 in the first person's ear, then they should whisper it in the next person's ear, and so on, until you've run out of ears.

Have the same love. Be one in spirit and in the way you think and act.

The last person should repeat the phrase out loud. Did it sound anything like the original phrase? It can be tricky to pass on the exact message someone tells you, but God wants us to work together, to have the same kind of love and kindness toward each other that He showed us first. We can pass His love and gentleness on to others when we work together.

THANK God for showing you love first so you can pass it on to others.

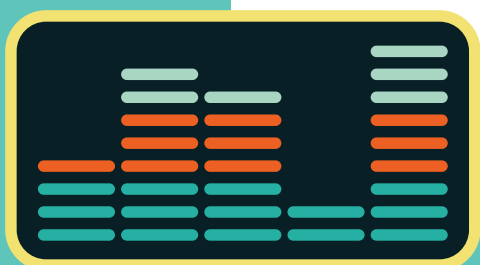
READ EPHESIANS 4:3

DAY 2

Ask a family member for help, and grab a scarf or something else you can use to tie one of your legs to the opposite leg of the other person. Without talking, try walking around the house. It probably doesn't go so well, does it? Now, try talking about it and agree on a direction. As you start walking, keep talking about how things are going and what you are going to do next. You're more likely steadier this time around!

Even though God has given us the ability to cooperate, sometimes we don't do the work to stay unified, and we end up falling all over the place. It takes some work to cooperate, but when we do, the payoff of unity is great!

ASK God to help you work together.



READ PSALM 133:1

Find some yarn or string around your house, and cut it into three long strands, tying all three together at the top. If you were to throw it into your backpack, eventually it would get all tangled, right? Instead, let's use the yarn strands to form a braid. Hold the center string and cross the right string over the center one. Now the right string has become the center one. Then cross the left string over the center string. Repeat the process until you run out of string. Now you have a nice braid instead of a ball of tangles! P.S. Save the braid—you'll use it again later this month!

Living together in peace with others requires some work. Sometimes it means you're the one doing the work; sometime it means someone else is. But if you take turns and work together, you'll end up with something "good and pleasant."

LISTEN and look for ways you can create peace with others.

DAY 3



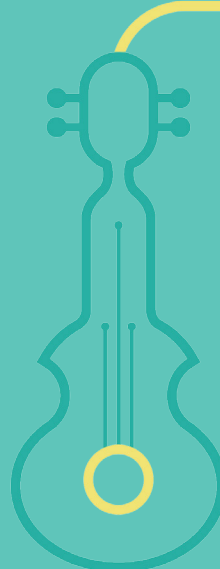
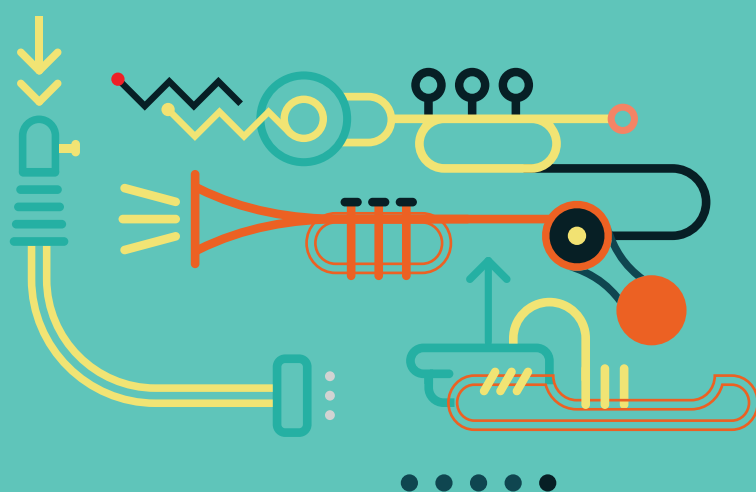
READ PROVERBS 27:17

DAY 4

Find the dulllest pencil you can find in your house. While you're at it, look for the sharpest pencil you can find as well (or sharpen one). Use each one to write out the words of Proverbs 27:17. Which one is clearer?

God wants us to work together for a lot of reasons, but one is that He knows that we can make each other better people when we work together. We can encourage each other to make wise choices; we can remind each other of God's truth; we can challenge each other to love God and love others better

KNOW that we do better when we work together.



God
wants us
to work
together.

COOPERATION

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WEEK
TWO
2ND-3RD GRADE

READ 1 PETER 3:8

DAY 1

Match the first part of each word on the right to the ending on the left.

- | | |
|------------|--------|
| -NOTHER | HU- |
| -STANDING | TEN- |
| -VE | A- |
| -DER | CO- |
| -MBLE | LO- |
| -OPERATION | UNDER- |

Helping someone else succeed means that you have to put that person's needs or wants first. If only that were as easy as a word matching

ASK God to help you cooperate to help others succeed.

Answers: humble, tender, another, cooperation, love, understanding

READ ROMANS 12:9-16

DAY 2

In the word search below, find the peace-filled words that are found in Romans 12:9-16.

WORD BANK

- | | |
|--------|---------|
| LOVE | PATIENT |
| HONEST | PRAY |
| TRUE | SHARE |
| HONOR | WELCOME |
| FAITH | BLESS |
| SERVE | AGREE |
| HOPE | FRIEND |
| JOYFUL | |

KNOW that working together often means putting others first.

J	O	Y	F	U	L	U	T	R	O	L	R	U	A	E	N	W	T	S
F	S	V	L	A	B	O	P	W	T	E	T	S	H	A	R	E	A	L
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READ PHILIPPIANS 2:4

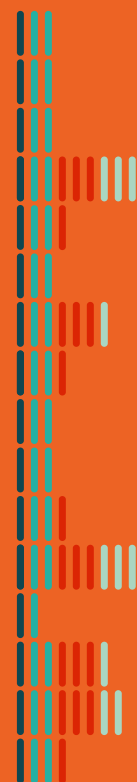
DAY 3

Do you know what some people call a list of goals or dreams they have for their lives? A "bucket list." What are some of the things that are on your bucket list? Write them in the bucket.

Now, go around and interview your family members to ask them about their bucket lists. Add their responses to the bucket.

Pick one of the items on someone else's list, and recruit everyone else to make it happen this week. It might seem like a lot, but if you work together, you can help someone else succeed!

LISTEN to what others need help with.



READ EPHESIANS 4:11-12

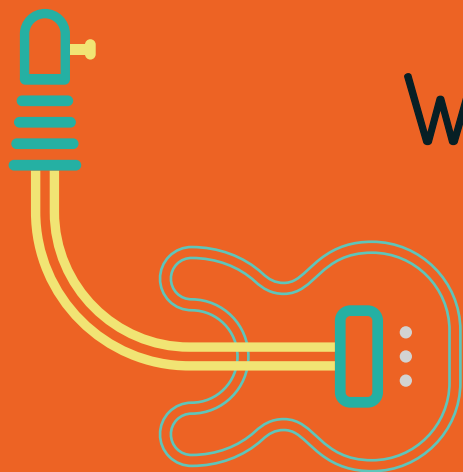
DAY 4

Who is your favorite solo artist? _____

Now, could you name the other people in their band? What about their backup singers? Probably not. Do you know their sound technician's name? Nope. But anyone who sings professionally will tell you that all those people are just as important to pulling off a successful performance as the lead singer. If those "unnamed" people didn't do their job well, the main singer wouldn't succeed.

God has given all of us unique gifts, and when we work together to use them, we can help each other succeed.

KNOW that sometimes your gifts and talents aren't about you.



Work together
to help
someone
succeed.



COOPERATION

Working together to do more than you can do alone

WEEK
THREE
2ND-3RD GRADE



READ ECCLESIASTES 4:12

DAY 1

Find the yarn or string you braided earlier this month. And also find another single piece of yarn or string (ideally similar to the one you braided). Try to break the single string. Then move on to the braided string. Which one seems stronger? The braided one, right?

When we stick together and cooperate, we are much stronger than when we try to do things alone. And that means we can be a much better help to others too!

KNOW that working with others makes you a better friend to everyone!



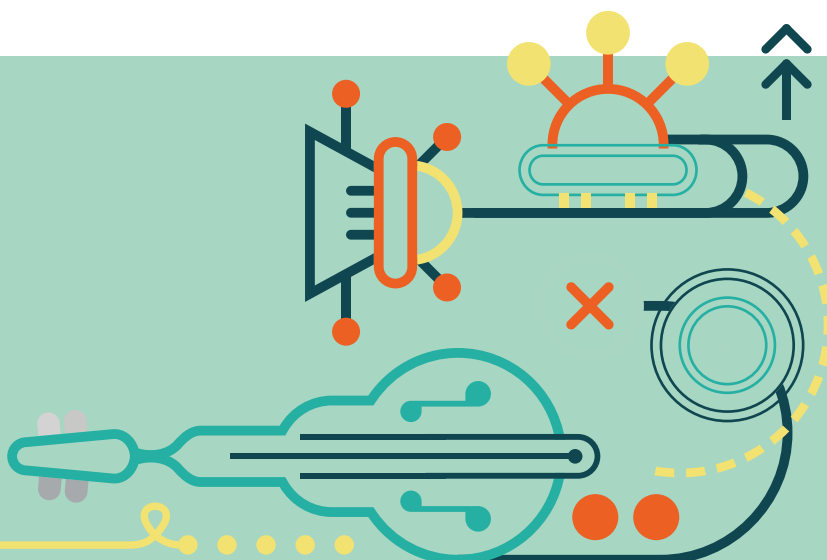
READ ROMANS 12:6-8

DAY 2

Stand in front of the mirror and say out loud some of the gifts and talents that God has given you. Maybe even flex your muscles if He made you athletic, or sing in the shower if He gave you the gift of music (or even if He didn't—no one can hear anyway!).

Did you ever think about the fact that God gave you gifts and talents not to help yourself, but so you could help others?! When we use our gifts to work together, it makes us stronger, both as individuals, and as a community of people who follow Jesus. As you go about your day today, think about how you could use one of your gifts to work with others and help someone in need.

ASK God to show you how you can use the gifts He gave you to help someone in need.



READ EPHESIANS 4:16

DAY 3

Grab a blank sheet of paper and try to cut out the word "cooperation" as one solid word without writing it out first. Pretty hard, right? Now, trace the word below and try to cut it again as one solid piece. Much easier!

COOPERATION

When we allow Jesus to guide us, instead of trying to do it ourselves, we can do our part of the job and stay connected to each other. And when we work together, we will be able to help others in need much more than we could do by ourselves.

ASK God to help you play the role He created you to play in helping others.



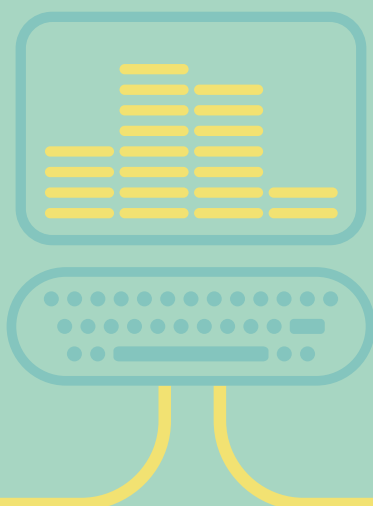
READ GALATIANS 6:2

DAY 4

Gather as many family members as you can (at least two people). Take turns doing a "trust fall" (where you cross your arms in front of your chest and fall backward, trusting your family members will catch you and keep you from falling).

It's a lot easier to fall when you know there's more than one person back there to catch you, isn't it? When we work together to help others, we can do so much more than if we do it alone.

THANK God for giving us each other to carry our heavy loads when we can't keep going.



Work together
to help
someone
in need.

COOPERATION

Working together to do more than you can do alone

WEEK
FOUR
2ND-3RD GRADE

READ JOHN 17:20-21

DAY 1

Jesus not only prayed that His disciples would work together so that others would believe in Him, but He prayed the same prayer for you and me. When we act "as one," loving each other and choosing unity, the world will see our love and believe in God's love for them too.

Write the word "ONE" on one of your hands to remind you of this truth all day: that when we are one with other believers, the world will believe in Jesus.

KNOW that Jesus could have prayed for anything for us, and He prayed for unity.

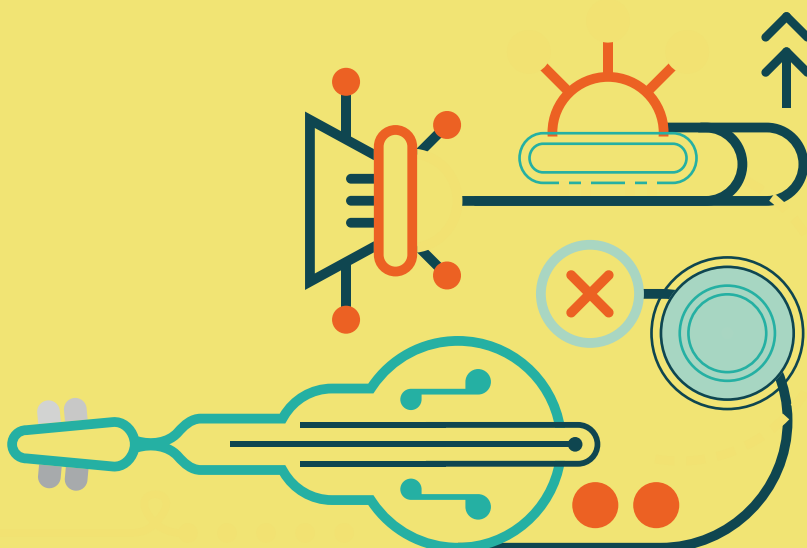
READ 1 JOHN 4:12

DAY 2

Get in the darkest room of your house and turn out all lights other than a flashlight. Can you see the flashlight, or do you mostly just see the light?

As humans, we can't actually SEE God, but what we can see is His light. And one of the best ways we can see His light is in the lives of people who follow Him. When we live in peace with each other and work together, the world will see our love for each other, and it will shine like a bright light in a dark room to show them God's love.

KNOW that loving others well shows the world who Jesus is.



READ 1 CORINTHIANS 3:6

DAY 3

If it's not too cold, step outside and look at the grass, trees, and other living things. Has your family planted any of the things you see? Even if your family plants a garden regularly, you've probably figured out that it's not completely up to you to have a successful garden. You can plant the seeds and water them regularly, but if the weather doesn't cooperate, or if animals or pests invade, you may not see the fruit of your labor. With any "luck," you'll grow giant juicy tomatoes and vibrant, colorful flowers.

One cool thing about cooperating to point others to Jesus is that it reminds us that we aren't responsible for making others put their trust in Jesus. We can play a big role in showing them who Jesus is and in loving them like God loves us, but it is God who ultimately shows them who He is. How cool is it that we get to cooperate with the maker of the Universe to invite others into a relationship with Him?!

THANK God for the chance to work with Him to show others who He is.



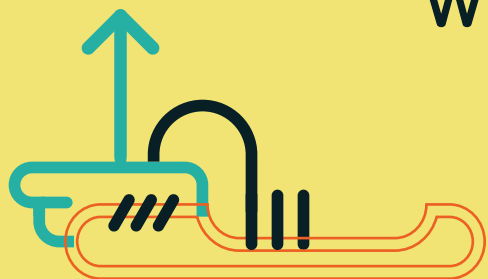
READ ROMANS 15:5-6

DAY 4

As followers of Jesus, we can work together to show the world who God is and how much He loves them. One way we can do that is by encouraging each other.

Write down a couple of names of people who you know are trying to use their gifts to show others who God is. Maybe it's your small group leader, or your best friend. Maybe they use their gifts of teaching to tell others about God. Or maybe they lead their soccer team in prayer before practice every week. This week, make a point to encourage them by either writing a short note or text, or just telling them that you see how they're working to show others who God is. As you encourage your friend, you are also working with them to point others to God.

ASK God to give you a love for others like He has.



Work together
to point
others to
Jesus.

