

Together, 4-K, November 4

Bible Story: Together (building the tabernacle) • *Exodus 28:1,3; 31:1-11; 35:21,25,34; 39:42-43*

Bottom Line: With God, we can work together to get His work done.

Memory Verse: “Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do.” *Ecclesiastes 4:9, NIV*

Life App: Cooperation—working together to do more than you can do alone.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

1. Early Arriver Idea

What You Need: an offering container

What You Do:

Ask kids to think of as many things as they can that take two or more people to do: games, jobs, chores, etc.

2. Parachute

What You Need: parachute (or bed sheet), balls

What You Do:

Spread the parachute out on the floor. Put one ball on the middle of it. Choose one kid to grab an edge of the parachute and see if he can get the ball into the air and keep it off the floor. After he tries to do this, ask one more kid to help. After they try, add another kid. Keep adding kids (and then balls) until all kids are helping.

What You Say:

“This activity worked better the more people were helping, didn’t it? **Today we’ll hear more about working together.**”

Play Video

* 1. Church Jobs (*application activity / review the Bible story*)

What You Need: “Church Jobs” (Activity Page)

What You Do:

Ask kids what they remember about today’s Bible story from Large Group. What were some of the different jobs that people had in order to make the tabernacle?

Play charades using the “Church Jobs” cards. As kids take their turns acting the jobs out, you might need to help them read the cards and know what the jobs are. After kids have guessed each job, talk about the different tasks that person does and which people’s jobs depend on each other. For instance, in order for Large Group to happen, the Large Group leader, musician(s), and singer(s) all have to do their jobs.

What You Say:

“There are a lot of people working together here at our church to make sure everything happens and that people can learn about God and His Word. *(Tell kids about the other people you work with in order to make Small Group happen each*

week.) When we work together, we can get a lot more done than we can just by ourselves. Cooperation makes things work better instead of everybody just doing their own thing. **[Impress] With God, we can work together to get His work done.**"

2. How Did You Get Here? (application activity / great for boys)

What You Need: markers and mural paper (*optional*)

What You Do:

For this activity, you will physically lead your kids through the process of how they got from their car to the present moment and talk about all the people who were necessary to make it happen. (You will want to coordinate with other Small Group Leaders to see if it would be best to all go together or do this at different times during the Small Group time.) If you are unable to take kids on a physical tour, consider asking kids to help stage your Small Group area to look like the larger church and grounds, and do a mini-tour right there in your space. As another option, you can have kids draw the different areas on mural paper.

Start the tour outside and talk about parking lot attendants, grounds crew, and any other people involved in the "outside" church world. Then, move inside and talk about greeters, the people who decorated the church (artists, designers, etc.), janitors, and the people involved in the check-in process (including IT people if you have a computerized system). Then, move into your Large Group and Small Group areas and discuss all the people involved in the SG and LG process (you could do a "backstage" tour if it applies to your church), and so on. If you could actually have some of these people on hand to talk to kids, that would be an added bonus.

What You Say:

"That was so cool to take a church tour and see how many people are involved and working together to make church happen every week. All of those people are cooperating and working together to do more than they could do alone. Our Bottom Line is: **[Impress] With God, we can work together to get His work done. [Apply] We can work together, too, right here in our Small Groups, to get God's work done. What are some ways we can work together?"** (*Each person can have a different task: sorting supplies, handing out supplies, cleaning up, etc.*)

3. Verse Search (memory verse activity)

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

Pair kids up and instruct them to help each other find Ecclesiastes 4:9 in their Bibles. Use the following tips to guide them.

Finding verses with kindergartners: Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word *Ecclesiastes* at the top of the page as you say "Ecclesiastes" aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 4 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 4 for the little 9; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

Finding verses with 1st graders: Guide kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Ecclesiastes in the list under "Old Testament." You can help by telling them that Ecclesiastes starts with the letters E-C-C. When the kids find Ecclesiastes, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the

number tells them on what page they can find Ecclesiastes. Help the kids find the page. When they find it, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 4. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 9 in chapter 4.

Read the verse aloud several times. Then, as they say each word of the verse, instruct one kid to link arms with another kid during the first word, who will then link arms with another kid during the second word, and so on.

What You Say:

“Today, we’ve been learning that **[Impress] with God, we can work together to get His work done.** When we work together, we help each other do more than we can do alone. **Just take a look at this room we’re in. It took a lot of people working together to build this room and this church. Nobody could have built this by himself. We all need to work together in order to do great things for God and for each other.**”

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

You will say the prayer below, and at the proper time, kids will each say the name of someone who has a job in the church. They can say a general name, like “pastor,” or they could say the pastor’s name.

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for all the people who work together here in our church. Thank You for [kids take turns saying people]. Help us to also do our part to cooperate and do more together than we could do alone. In Jesus’ name, amen.

“We know that **with God, we can work together to get His work done. We can do that in many ways, but the important thing to remember and to DO is to think about the things we do best and then work together with others to get things done and do more than we could do alone.**”

Together, 1-2 Gr, November 4

Bible Story: Together (building the tabernacle) • *Exodus 28:1,3; 31:1-11; 35:21,25,34; 39:42-43*

Bottom Line: With God, we can work together to get His work done.

Memory Verse: “Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do.” *Ecclesiastes 4:9, NIV*

Life App: Cooperation—working together to do more than you can do alone.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

1. Early Arriver Idea

What You Need: an offering container

What You Do:

Ask kids if they have ever seen something being built (a house, a public building, a model car, a birdhouse, a road, etc.). Ask them what it was, what steps were involved, if it took a long time or a short time, etc. Tell kids that when something is built, there are many steps involved. Someone has to plan what it's going to look like, how it's going to be built, what materials will be used to build it, how it's going to be paid for, etc.

2. Draw it Out

What You Need: blank paper, pencils or markers, floor plan (*optional*)

What You Do:

Ask kids to draw floor plans of their houses. Encourage them to include where the kitchen is, the living room, their room, their parents' room, etc. Remind kids to just do their best; it doesn't have to be exact or perfect.

What You Say:

“Even though we all live in different places—houses, apartments, condos, or other places—I bet we all have similar rooms. Let's draw a picture of how the rooms in our houses look. Where is your room? Where is the kitchen? Where is the bathroom? When your house was being built, someone drew up floor plans so the people building it would know where to put all those rooms. They needed a plan before they started building, and they needed more than just one or two people! **Today we'll and hear about how God's house was built.**”

Play Video

* 1. If You Build It (*review the Bible story*)

What You Need: Lego pieces and/or other building materials, picture of the tabernacle (*optional*)

What You Do:

Divide kids up into groups of three. Have each group work together to build their version of the tabernacle using the building materials you have provided. You may want to have a picture on hand of what the tabernacle looked like so they can work from that.

What You Say: “Can you imagine what a big job it was to build the tabernacle? The Israelites must have felt pretty honored to have been given such a great task. At the same time, they probably felt a little overwhelmed sometimes because it was such an important job to do! **This week, when you feel like you have something big to do, ask someone to help you. (Tell kids about a time when you had something big to do and so you asked for help from a friend.) With God, we can work together to get His work done.**”

2. The Blob (*application activity / great for boys*)

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

Choose two kids. Tell those kids to line up in the front of the room and hold each other's hands or hook arms at the elbow. These kids will start off as the Blob and must stay connected at all times. The purpose of the game is to not be touched by the Blob. If a person is touched by the Blob, the person becomes part of the Blob and must hook on with a person on either end. The Blob tries to tag everyone while running together and staying hooked together. You could also have kids move around by walking on their knees if you have a small space. The last person to avoid being tagged wins the game.

What You Say:

“As the Blob got bigger, was it easier or harder to tag the people who were left? (*Pause for responses.*) Right! This game was sort of the opposite of what we learned today. Often, things get easier the more people you have helping you. **As you go about your week, remember that you can help make other people's work easier by helping them out. With God, we can work together to get His work done.**”

3. Remember Where? (*memory verse activity*)

What You Need: Bibles, “Remember Where?” (Activity Page)

What You Do:

Look up the verse and read it together.

Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Ecclesiastes in the list under “Old Testament.” When the kids find Ecclesiastes, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Ecclesiastes. Help the kids find the page. When they find Ecclesiastes, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 4. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 9 in chapter 4.

Place cut-apart cards face down. Have kids take turns turning over the squares one at a time (two cards per turn) to try to find a match. Anyone who finds a match gets to go again. Once they have found all the pairs, put the verse in order. Challenge the kids to put the verse together without looking at the Bible. (If they need to, they can take a peek at the Bible after they've given it a shot.) Read the verse together one more time.

What You Say:

“Our Bible verse today tells us that two people are better than one. When are some times it's better to have two or more people instead of just one? (*Picking something heavy up, helping an injured friend, joining together to raise money for the church or*

other projects) **This week, let's remember to help each other. With God, we can work together to get His work done."**

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

Divide kids into partners. Have each partnership talk about something they wish would happen. Encourage kids to talk about the steps that would have to happen for their wish to come true. After partners have shared their wish, have each person pray for their partner.

What You Say:

"All of us have something we wish would happen. However, most things don't just happen out of nowhere—there are little things that would need to happen first to help our wish come true. Just like when the Israelites built the tabernacle, they had to do a lot of little things before their big dream came true. Let's take some time to talk to our partner about something we wish would happen and the steps that would need to happen first. Then, ask God to help those things happen for your partner if that's what He wants. **With God, we can work together to get His work done. [Apply] Don't forget that you can ask others to help you along the way to your goals!"**

Together, 3-4 Gr, November 4

Bible Story: Together (building the tabernacle) • *Exodus 28:1,3; 31:1-11; 35:21,25,34; 39:42-43*

Bottom Line: With God, we can work together to get His work done.

Memory Verse: “Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do.” *Ecclesiastes 4:9, NIV*

Life App: Cooperation—working together to do more than you can do alone.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

1. Early Arriver Idea

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

Invite kids to place their offerings in the offering container. Interact with kids who arrive early by asking them if they have a favorite instrument they play or would like to someday learn to play. What kinds of music do they like? Let them share some of their favorite bands, singers, and the songs they listen to.

Play Video

1. Crackernacle (*application activity / review the Bible story*)

What You Need: “The Tabernacle Drawing” (Large Group Visual), “Tabernacle Checklist” (Activity Page), graham crackers, frosting, toothpicks, foam plates, stick pretzels, wet wipes, cookie sheet

What You Do:

Show kids The Tabernacle Drawing and let them share what they remember about the way God’s people worked together to complete it.

Ask kids to form trios or pairs. Give each group a copy of the “Tabernacle Checklist” on which you’ve check-marked the items you’d like each team to build. Show kids the “Crackernacle” supplies as you pass them out by giving each kid only one item (or one kind of item).

Begin by having everyone wash their hands, which means the kid(s) with the wet wipes will need to distribute one to everyone. Encourage cooperation by asking kids to continue sharing supplies so that each team has what it needs to build their portion of the Crackernacle. Have the kids making the fence build it on top of the cookie sheet. Have teams build the other items on the foam plates and then add the parts to the cookie sheet base as they are completed. They should follow the diagram on the checklist for proper placement of all the furnishings. As kids work, provide suggestions as needed to help kids make their tabernacle items from the supplies as they would if they were making a gingerbread house.

If desired, let kids snack on the crackers and other items used in the activity.

Optional: If you have kids with food allergies or prefer to do a non-food alternative, provide items for this activity such as LEGOs®, Play-Doh®, or have kids fold, sculpt, and shape items out of sheets of aluminum foil.

What You Say:

“The Israelites came together and did something amazing for God when they built the tabernacle. It was an enormous task—and not an easy one—but I bet they had fun doing it. There’s something exciting that happens when God’s people share what they have and what they’re good at. When you made your Crackernacles, it didn’t matter which team you were on. Each person shared what they had—some took the lead with ideas, others assembled the parts—and everyone had a role to play. **[Impress] With God, we can work together to get His work done. [Apply] Just like the Israelites came together to do something amazing for God, you can too. But you can’t always do it alone. And you should never try to do it without God.** Cooperation isn’t just something God put out there for kids to do. It’s a Life App that’s just as much for me as it is for you. **[Personalize] (Share a specific way you cooperate on a day-to-day basis with people at work, in your family, or those you interact with at places like the mall, gas station, sports events, and so on.)** Impossible tasks become possible when we follow God and work together. Be on the lookout this week for ways you can help other people with the job they’re trying to accomplish.”

Optional 5th Grade Discussion Questions

If you lead fifth graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- If you or your family had been part of the tabernacle construction crew, what are some ways you would have been able to help?
- What are some things you do in your family that can’t be done without the cooperation of others? How about at school? In your neighborhood? What can you do to make cooperation easier in all of those areas?
- Why do you think God wants us to cooperate?

2. People Power (application activity / great for boys)

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

Form two teams. Explain that you will whisper to one of the teams the name of an appliance, gadget, or machine. (Examples: electric toothbrush, washing machine, vacuum, lawn mower, blender, fan.) Without speaking, they must act out all of the machine’s parts using all of their team members in some way, and the other team will guess what they are. For example, an electric toothbrush would have several people lying down to be the handle; others would be the vibrating bristles. If time allows, let kids come up with their own appliances.

What You Say:

“When cooperation is in full motion, it’s a beautiful thing—like a machine with all the parts working together. If one part doesn’t cooperate, the machine breaks down and the work stops. We all know what that’s like! What happens when something like your computer, TV, or your mom’s car decides to not cooperate? Everything comes to a halt until it’s working again. When the Israelites built the tabernacle they worked together like a human machine. Each person jumped in with what they had and did what they were able to do. The same is true for us today. **[Impress] With God, we can work together to get His work done.** Whether you realize it or not, you have something God wants you to do and He’s given you what you need to make it happen. **[Apply] Are you really good at making things? Are you compassionate when you see someone hurting?**”

Are you good at speaking or singing or playing an instrument? God's got a job for you that fits perfectly with the way He's gifted you. He wants all of us to use our gifts to work together like a God-powered human machine!"

*** 3. Word Elimination (memory verse activity)**

What You Need: Bibles, paper, pens

What You Do:

Help kids locate Ecclesiastes 4:9 in their Bibles. Use the navigation tip below with kids who are unfamiliar with the books of the Bible.

When everyone has located the verse, ask a volunteer to read it aloud as everyone follows along, reciting it as a group.

Pair kids up and hand out paper and pens. Ask one partner to write the first sentence of the verse ("Two people are better than one") in large letters on a sheet of paper, and instruct the other partner to do the same thing with the second sentence ("They can help each other in everything they do").

Explain that being cooperative requires that we work together with others so we can accomplish more than we can on our own. **[Apply] Invite the kids to explain in their own words what Ecclesiastes 4:9 means to them. How does cooperation factor into the way we live out this verse? Let kids name some ways they can apply the second part of the Ecclesiastes 4:9 this week.**

After the discussion, have kids look at the papers on which they wrote part of the verse. Ask them to choose the word in their part of the verse that they feel is biggest or the most important, and then take turns sharing the word they chose and why. Next, have them select the least important word and scribble it out. Let them take turns saying the verse without the word they crossed out. The verse will still make sense but will sound strange. Invite kids to continue scribbling out the least important words until they feel the verse is no longer understandable.

What You Say:

"Little words in a sentence may not seem all that important, but take them out, and you're left with a bunch of gibberish. Big words. Little words. Big jobs. Little jobs. Big talents. Little talents. They all play an important part in the whole of God's plan and when we work together, we can do stuff we'd never be able to do alone. Ecclesiastes 4:9 gives us one of the reasons why God wants us to learn to cooperate. It's simple: When it comes to serving God, two are just plain better than one. That's because **[Impress] with God, we can work together to get His work done.** We can help and encourage others by working together. And here's the best part: more of God's work gets done!"

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: index cards, pens

What You Do:

Pass around the index cards and pens and let kids write their names on the cards. Next, invite all the kids to exchange cards around the group (girls with girls, guys with guys).

[Apply] Explain that they're going to be prayer partners for one another for the

next week. That means they will make it a point to pray for their friends several times over the coming week. Suggest ways they can remember to pray such as putting the index card on their mirror, fridge, or in a place they will see during the day. Give prayer partners a few minutes to share specific requests if they want and to write them on the index cards. Then ask kids to come back together in a circle.

What You Say:

“All of us have things we need God’s help with. That’s probably not news to you, is it? But our memory verse this month reminds us that we sometimes need the help of others, too. God says it like this: ‘Two are better than one.’ **Needing others is part of the way God put us together and prayer is one important way we can help one another. This week, let God help you encourage, pray for, work with, and cooperate with the people in your life.** Because **with God, we can work together to get His work done.** Let’s finish out today by praying for our prayer partners. I’ll pray out loud and you can silently fill in the name of your friend and then add your own prayer thoughts whenever I pause.

“Dear God, please help my friend, _____, this week to find ways to serve You. Maybe he or she can cooperate with others at home by helping with _____. Maybe at school he or she can help someone with a job like _____. Remind my friend this week that when we work together, we can do a whole lot more than we can on our own. In Jesus’ name, amen.”