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



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**

- 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.
- 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.





### Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Name a bad habit you'd like to quit. (Examples: biting your nails, eating too much candy)

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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.



