

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

DAY 1

Read Hebrews 10:24

When you run a race or play a game, what do you try to do? Win, right? In a competition, winning is what we're after. But in relationships, winning should never be the goal!

Cooperation means working together to do more than you can do alone. When you cooperate, you are choosing to allow others to help you do something big. That means that when the job is done, you share the credit with others.

It's tempting to want to be the hero, to get all the glory. But it's not really about the praise you receive in the end. It's about the process it took to get there. When you cooperate, you get a chance to combine your gifts and talents with the gifts and talents of others. You learn how to listen and respond with kindness. When you cooperate, you have the opportunity to help others do more good. And you get to be a part of accomplishing more together than you could ever do on your own.

This week, instead of thinking about winning, change the goal to finding ways to cooperate instead. Ask God to help you work as a team so you can get more done!

DAY 2

Read Ephesians 4:32

Think about the last time you had to work with a group to get something done. Did you take charge and expect everyone to follow you? Did you contribute your ideas and listen to the ideas of others? Or did you fade into the background, letting others take the lead?

We all have different personalities. Some of us are natural leaders, ready to take charge. Some of us are quieter and need time to think about a strategy or plan before we jump in with both feet. In any group, you'll find different gifts and personalities. **If you want to cooperate, one big way to accomplish this goal is by choosing to be kind.**

It means not interrupting if you think your idea is better.

It means listening more than you talk.

It means being willing to speak up in a kind way to offer a solution.

What is one thing you could do the next time you find yourself in a group to help others around you succeed?



DAY 3

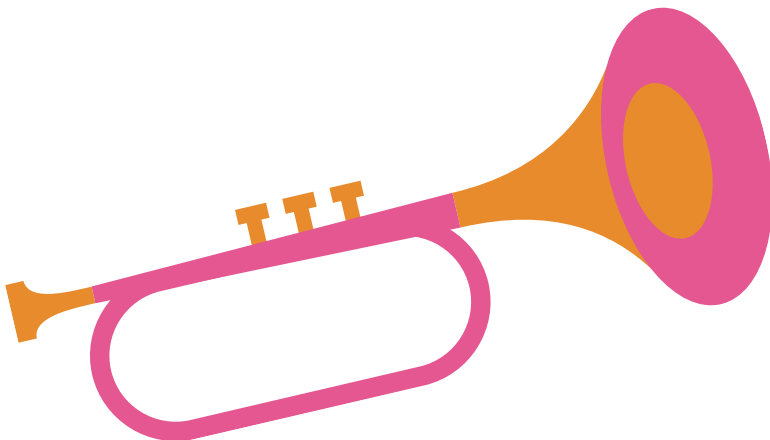
Read Proverbs 27:17

Have you ever noticed how a marker can bleed on to your hands or table? As you think about that marker rubbing off on your hand, reread this verse. The way we treat others, the way we cooperate, has the potential to “rub off” on the people around us. When we choose to work together, when we listen to another person’s ideas, hopefully those things will “rub off” on the people around us! And when we do, we not only get more done, we can help others succeed.



Marker Maker

1. Grab an index card and write out the words from today’s verse on the card.
2. Don’t let the marker “ink” dry and see how much marker rubs off on your hands!
3. Ask God to help you cooperate this week so that you can help others succeed.



DAY 4

Read Galatians 6:2

Would you rather . . .

- Clean your room by yourself or have a little help?
- Finish a big project for school alone or work with a group?
- Cover all the positions on the soccer field by yourself or be a part of a team?

Have you ever had a big job to do and realized you were the only one to get it done? It’s way more fun to have a friend or family member to help you. And sometimes, the task in front of us is so big we just can’t do it by ourselves.

God knew we would need each other. God knows that we will get way more done when we choose to cooperate! And when the big job is done, we’ll have someone to celebrate with too.



Verse Weight

1. Grab something heavy from the kitchen like a big soup can or a gallon of milk. Repeat the words of today’s verse as you carry the item around your house with one hand.
2. Say the verse five times without switching hands?



Work together to help someone succeed.