

ELEMENTARY

MARCH 2025

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN COOPERATION AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

Cooperation isn't always something that may happen naturally, but it is something that is near and dear to God's heart. Since the beginning of creation we see how God created us to be in community with one another. Cooperation is a spiritual concept that originates with God, and throughout the Bible, we see how God brought people together to accomplish God's plan for the world. When we work together, we reflect Jesus to others, and our love for one another can point people to Him as we explore what God wants us to do together.

CORE INSIGHT: The theological foundation for COOPERATION

Community in the context of God's family

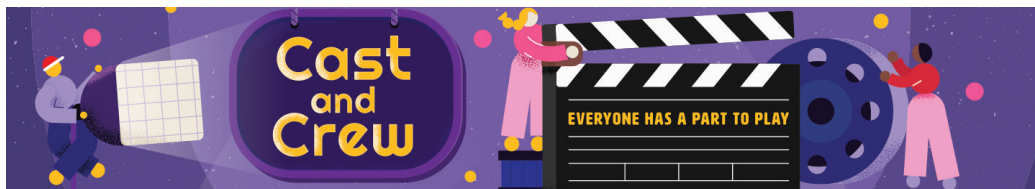
I choose to live in the complexities of family and community because God values them.

God created us to work together in community. When we cooperate, we reflect what Jesus envisioned for His followers. Our love for one another can point people back to Jesus.

COOPERATION is about working together to do more than you can do alone.

HEADS UP: IDEAS TO KEEP IN MIND AS YOU TALK ABOUT COOPERATION WITH KIDS

As you talk about the Israelites' battle against the Amalekites in Week 2, it may stir up conversation about war and the current climate between Israel and Palestine. Should it come up, encourage kids who may be feeling anxious or upset about current events to talk to their parents or other trusted adults in their lives about it. Come up with a plan with their adult about how to handle those conversations so you're on the same page. Also, in Week 5, as you talk about the passage in 1 Corinthians about one body, many parts, be especially cognizant of the words you use. Everybody is created differently and with various abilities. Help the kids understand that whether or not they don't have something or something doesn't work the same way as someone else, that God created them and everyone else uniquely, and that they still have a part to play in the body of Christ.



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FOR LEADERS ONLY (CONTINUED)

WEEK 1

We start the month in **Luke 5:1-11, 27-32; 6:12-16; 8:1-3**. Here we see Jesus has started His ministry by gathering His disciples together. This was the most unlikely group of people, all from different backgrounds, but Jesus still called them to bring about His mission.

Bottom Line: Jesus wants us to work together.

Sometimes it may feel easier to work alone than with others, especially when you don't agree or get along. But those moments are exactly when we need to learn how to cooperate with others. Just as Jesus gathered a group of VERY different people to help Him accomplish His mission, we too are created to work together, differences and all.

WEEK 2

In week 2, we head to **Exodus 17:8-13** where Joshua and the Israelites were facing the Amalekites in battle. Anytime Moses held up his staff, the Israelites did well, and when he dropped them, they would start to lose. So Aaron and Hur came up with a plan to help Moses succeed. Moses needed people to literally hold him up in order for Joshua to lead the Israelites to victory.

Bottom Line: Work together to help someone succeed.

Just as Aaron and Hur created a plan together to help Moses succeed, kids can learn how working together doesn't just impact themselves but it impacts those around them as well. Together, you can work with others to help those around you accomplish something no matter how big or small it is.

WEEK 3

In week 3, we head to **Nehemiah 1-4; 6:15**, where Nehemiah and the Israelite people face a HUGE problem. They had returned home to Judah where the city walls had crumbled. Nehemiah rallied the people together and led them to work together to rebuild the wall in just 52 days!

Bottom Line: Work together to solve problems. Have you ever been stumped by a problem and no matter how many times you faced it, couldn't figure out a way to solve it? Sometimes all it takes is another pair of eyes. When

you work together with someone else, you can do BIG things, just like the people of Israel did in our story.

WEEK 4

For week 4 we head to **Luke 5:17-26**. Here we encounter four friends and their cooperation to help another friend see Jesus. Their friend was paralyzed and could not walk, so they did everything they could to get him to Jesus – even tear down a roof! Because of the four friends' faith and cooperation, Jesus did something incredible, changing the life of the man who was paralyzed, forever.

Bottom Line: Work together to help someone in need.

Some needs may seem intimidating or too big for you to truly make a difference – and they very well could be if you tackle it alone. However, when you cooperate with others and work together, you have a better chance of making a lasting impact on someone else's life.

WEEK 5

We end the month in **1 Corinthians 12:12-27** with the early church. Arguments had broken out and sides were taken as the believers struggled to come together. Paul wrote to them, encouraging them to use their differences as they work together to tell others about Jesus because their gifts work best together.

Bottom Line: Work together to point people to Jesus.

When we work together, many people will have a chance to see Jesus' love in action. Accomplishing Jesus' mission for the world is a HUGE undertaking. However, when we practice working together, we can help others and show them Jesus along the way.