



PRETEEN

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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WEEK 1

Key Question: **When have you seen people work together?** Whether it's at school, at home, in sports, or with a hobby, kids are constantly learning to work together and are watching other people learn how to work together, too. Seeing other people who have set a good (or bad) example of what it looks like to work together can inspire kids to want to work well together because they can do more and BETTER together than alone.

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

Key Question: **Who do you work well with?** A big part of what makes cooperation easier to achieve is when you connect with others who have the same goals as you. When kids find connections with others, it can excite them to create and do things together. We hope as preteens think about this question, they will begin to see people God has already put in their lives to help someone else.

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.



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WEEK 3

Key Question: **How has someone helped you solve problems?** Some problems are just too big to solve alone. When you're growing up and learning how to tie your shoe, you need help. Same for when you're first learning math, trying something new, or helping at a clothing drive. As preteens answer this question, we hope they will reflect on the people who have helped them and why it was a help to them. Then they can go and be a help to someone else as well.

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

Key Question: **How can you work together to help someone?** Kids are more aware than you may think. They notice things around them and ask great questions. As kids recognize those who are in need around them, you can begin to have discussions with them about what it looks like to help someone else. We hope this question gets preteens thinking through ways they can help to meet someone else's needs with others' help.

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.



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FOR LEADERS ONLY (CONTINUED)

WEEK 5

Key Question: **What part can you play?** The preteen years are the perfect time for kids to explore their role in the church — and we all have a role we can play! We hope to give preteens the chance to figure out how God has uniquely gifted them to help point their friends and family to Jesus.

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.