



Cooperation

Originated in: NAD

Requirements

1. Read and discuss Acts 4:32-37 and Exodus 35:20-29; 36:2-7.
2. What is cooperation?
3. Why is cooperation important in your family, school, and church?
4. Role play a Bible story about cooperation.
5. Sing a cooperation song.
6. Play a cooperative game.
7. Make a cooperative craft with your group.

Supporting Answers

Note: This award requires cultural and group sensitivity. Please treat our suggestions as a starting point. The actions that indicate cooperation vary dramatically in different cultures around the world!

1. These Bible texts tells us about times in the Bible where cooperation resulted in great success for the group of God-followers. Read the texts as a group, then discuss.

Example questions include:

- 1) what was accomplished when people worked together?
- 2) Did cooperating mean everybody did the same things? What talents did they use individually to work together?
- 3) what was the group goal in each story?
- 4) What evidence do you see about whether they accomplished their goal?
- 5) What goals does our club/group have that we can help with? Would we consider that cooperating?
- 6) Colossians 3:23-24 read aloud together is an application challenge for today! Biblgateway.com search "Acts 4:32-37, Exodus 35:20-29, Exodus 36:2-7" with your favorite version selected.

2. Willingness to work together; give and take. Learning to cooperate is when a person thinks about and balances their own needs and wants with another person's needs and wants. Some people think that cooperation means a child does what the adult wants. That's not the case. True cooperation is a give and take between people that ends up with something they both agree on. Cooperation is a skill that must be learned.

3. Discuss. This requirement may be combined with the Bible discussion in requirement 1.

4. Have the kids brainstorm a list of stories. Some stories: Paralyzed man brought to Jesus by Friends (Mark 2:1-12), Nehemiah building the wall (Nehemiah 3-4), Marching around Jericho (Joshua 6), Noah and his family build a boat (Genesis 6), Gideon and 300 men conquer their enemies (Judges 6).

Teaching Idea: Brown Bag Role Play

Materials: Brown paper bag with slips of paper. Each slip of paper contains a Bible story (and reference) about cooperation that can be acted out.

Goal: Groups of Helping Hands silently perform Bible stories about cooperation for the other kids to guess.

Procedure: Have each group choose a slip of paper. Give the groups five minutes to plan how they will portray the story without using any words. Have each group perform. Remind the other kids NOT to guess until the performance is over. This may be a great worship leading opportunity for Helping Hands

5. Youtube.com or your favorite search engine will give you choices from which you may choose one relevant to your group. Search phrase: "cooperation song kids" or "cooperation song kids Christian"

6. Teaching Idea: Spaghetti Towers

Materials: dry spaghetti noodles, tiny marshmallows

Goal: Create a tower as tall as possible that can stand self-supported.

Procedure: Give each team of 3-4 Helping Hands 100g of spaghetti and 50 grams of mini marshmallows. Tell them that they are attempting to create a tower out of marshmallows and spaghetti noodles that is as tall as possible. They may cut or divide any of the pieces but cannot add anything, including water. If needed, assign an adult to each group with the clear instructions that adults are NOT allowed to guide the decisions or creation but only assist. Give 10-20 minutes to the groups to plan and create their tower. Give them a 5-minute warning before calling time and measuring the towers.

Discussion: What worked well in your group? Did you team cooperate well? Poorly? How did cooperation affect your project's success?

Updated in: 2003 / Grade 2

