

COOPERATION

BIG IDEA

Cooperation is the support and willingness to work together in peace, unity, and harmony.

MEMORY VERSE

Ephesians 4:3
Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves.
A cord of three strands is not quickly
broken.

• PREPARATION & MATERIALS •

BIBLE LESSON: INTERACTIVE

- Bucket
- Two wooden cubes
- Bundle of 7 sticks

GAME

- Rope (or volleyball net if available)
- Balloons

CRAFT

- Paper cups (8oz or 12oz)
- Markers

WORKSHEETS

- Photocopies of Coloring Sheet (1 per child)



COOPERATION

Lesson 10

LESSON • INTERACTIVE

Ask for 8 volunteers to come on stage. One plays the father and the other 7 line up from oldest to youngest. Tell them you will read a story out loud and they need to act it out.

Once upon a time there was a farmer who had seven children. These kids were very different from one another. And in many ways this was a wonderful thing giving them different strengths and unique abilities. They all had different favorite colors, different favorite sports, different favorite foods, etc. But they also each thought their ideas and ways of doing this was better than the other six.

The poor farmer got so exasperated with his children. "Kids, why are you always quarreling? That is no way to live."

The kids would not listen to their father. Each wanted the best of everything. They each tried to convince the father that his needs were most important. They spent so much time arguing that they got no farm work done. The garden dried up. The fence rotted and the pigs got loose.

The father was as patient as he could be, but he was overwhelmed with all the farm work and his useless, arguing kids. One day he called his seven sons to him. He had in his hand a bundle of seven sticks.

"Kids, we are going to settle this once and for all. Which ever of you can break this bundle of sticks will be my most important son and will be in charge of the other brothers.

The oldest one tried first. He/she had big strong hands, but he could not break it though he/she used all his strength. The second child had really nice strong teeth, so he/she tried to bite through the sticks, but could not do it. The third sibling tried to break them over his/her knee, but could not do it. The fourth child tried kicking through them. The sixth tried breaking them over his/her head. The seventh tried jumping on them. But in the end, non of the children was successful.

The father untied the bundle and gave each child one stick.

"Now see if you can break the sticks," said their father.

"No problem," they said and they each used their own technique to break their stick.

"Now tell us why you asked us to break these sticks," said the kids.

"Do you not see," replied the father, "that if you all stand together, nothing can harm you; but if each of you stands by himself, you may easily be ruined?"

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LESSON • INTERACTIVE

(Actors take a bow.)

Discuss: Why didn't the siblings cooperate? What problems did it cause in their family? If the kids never learned to cooperate how would their problems on the farm get worse? Why couldn't they break the bundle of sticks? What would have happened if Jesus refused to cooperate with God the Father?

Next bring out the object lesson props (table (or other flat surface), small bucket, two wooden cubes). Ask for two volunteers.

SAY: Volunteers, I am going to ask you to perform an impossible task. Using just your pointed finger I want you to get your cube from the table top into the bucket. You cannot bend your finger or use any other fingers. Ready, go! (Let them try for 10-15 seconds). Good job. Who else wants to try? (Give them 10-15 seconds. Allow several more volunteers to give it a try.)

SAY: Would you believe that this impossible task is actually very, very easy? I'll give you a hint. It just takes a little cooperation. Does anybody want to give it another try using cooperation with the other person? (Give pairs 10-15 seconds until one pair is able to figure out that they need to push their blocks into each other and then slowly lift them into the bucket.)

Discuss: Why was it impossible for one person to get a block into the bucket? How did cooperation make it possible? In life what types of things are impossible to do alone? What are some ways you cooperate with your family or friends? What do you think our memory verse means? (Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.)



SIMPLIFIED LESSON OPTIONS

- Tell the story without the actors or have the mission team act it out.
- Ask 3-4 of the simpler discussion questions.

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Lesson 10

CRAFT & GAME

• CRAFT •

OBJECTIVE: FLOWER, FACE OR FANCY

Create a flower, face or fancy dish from a paper cup.

MATERIALS PROVIDED BY EM

- Scissors, staplers, hole punches

DIRECTIONS

1) Cut cup in 1/2 inch strips leaving 1 inch at the bottom.



2) Bend one strip behind the strip on the left. The rounded edge of the cup will hold the strip in place.



3) Continue bending strips around the entire cup.



4) Decorate!



SIMPLIFIED CRAFT OPTIONS

- Bend petals straight out instead of looping them.
- Use colored paper cups

• GAME •

OBJECTIVE: ALL ON ONE SIDE

A cooperative game where teams attempt to get everyone from one side of the net to the other.

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- Rope (or volleyball net if available)
- Balloons

INSTRUCTIONS

- Divide kids into teams. Each team competes against one another for the best time.
- Your whole team starts on one side of a volleyball net (or a rope held by mission team members) with no one on the other side.
- The object is to get your team to the other side of the net and back as many times as possible.
- Using a balloon for a ball, each player volleys the balloon to another player and then scoots under the net to the other side.
- The last player to touch the balloon taps it over the net and scoots under.
- The receiving players try to keep the balloon in play and repeat the process.

