

FAMILY FAITH BUILDER

Character Lessons for Practical Application of Faith

Cooperation



Understanding others so I can effectively work with them.

When we practice cooperation in God's service we are glorifying him. Instead of doing it our way, we do it God's way. When people witness a church community cooperating together to serve they become curious. We could tell them that it's the work of Jesus in our hearts that makes it possible to listen to each other and work together. When we focus on Him and His will, He makes cooperating with each other possible.

This month, listen to Jesus in your heart and serve God's way.

To Practice Cooperation I Will:

- Listen to others to understand their point of view
- Do my part in group efforts
- Accept help when I need it
- See my needs in relationship to the needs of the greater community
- Look for ways to be a help to others

Any others appropriate to your family?

God's Word on Cooperation

"Do two walk together, unless they have agreed to meet?"

Amos 3:3

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good".

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!"

Psalms 133:1-3

"Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment."

1 Corinthians 1:10

Make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.
Philippians 2:2

Jesus said, "He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters."

Luke 11:23

Four Men Teach Us about Cooperation

Four men brought a friend of theirs, who was paralyzed, to see Jesus. The building was very crowded and they couldn't get in the door. Instead, they went up on the roof they lowered their friend down on his mat to see Jesus. Can you imagine how much cooperation it took to accomplish that feat? When Jesus saw their faith, He healed the man and now he could walk for the first time! Can you imagine how the paralyzed man must have felt to have four good friends put forth such a cooperative effort to help him see Jesus



Together We Are Stronger



You will need enough toothpicks to have at least two per person in the family. If your family is small, you should use at least 3 per person. You will also need a small rubber band large enough to hold several of the toothpicks in a bunch.

Pass out the toothpicks to each family member. Ask them to break one toothpick. Each person should be able to easily break it. For younger children, you may need to help them. Now have each person hand you one (or two if your family is small). Using the rubber band, bundle them into a single group. Ask each family member if they can break this bunch if they are bound together. The answer will be no. There is strength in numbers. When a family works together they are stronger. Discuss some examples of how a family can work together such as taking turns at chores, older siblings helping younger siblings, or working together in the community for a charitable cause. What about at Church? We call ourselves the Body of Christ because we need to work together to serve the Church family and the greater community. Discuss ways church members work together.

POSTER IDEA:

Cooperation

Understanding others so I can effectively work with them



“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

Romans 8:28

**Do you think of the
greater good or
yourself?**

Dear Jesus,

We praise you for your goodness and mercy and thank you for the example of cooperation in your life. You always worked with those around you. Help us to listen to others to understand their point of view and to do our part in group efforts. Teach us to accept help when we need it and to see our needs in relationship to the needs of the greater community. Guide us to look for ways to be a help to others. Help us to act in all things in harmony with the will of the Father.

Amen.

Other ways to teach character in the home:

- Display the character quality and definition in a prominent place such as on the refrigerator or let each child decorate it for their bedroom door.
- At the dinner table ask if anyone noticed anyone (not just family members) demonstrating the character quality (or not demonstrating it).
- Point out news stories where character was or was not involved.
- During car trips, challenge the kids by describing scenarios and having them identify if it describes being the quality or being the opposite.
- Praise with character by recognizing the character quality involved rather than the achievement.
- For more ideas visit www.charactercincinnati.org/cooperation.php