

ALLEY LG – Jan 30th/31st

Bible Story: Flip This Church (Early Church works together) • Acts 2:42-47 (*Supporting: John 13:35*)

Bottom Line: Working together can point people to Jesus.

Memory Verse: “Two people are better than one because they have a good return for their labor.” Ecclesiastes 4:9, *NiV*

Life App: Cooperation—working together to do more than you can do alone.

Host enters wearing racing mechanic shirt and hat, carrying a toolbox.

CG: High Gear Slide

Opener

HOST: “Hey, everybody. Good to see you today! Can’t believe it’s the end of another month! So glad you’re here as we get into High Gear one last time! We’ve been talking about what? That’s right—cooperation.

CG: Cooperation Slide

“Cooperation is working together to do more than you can do alone. Now, when fixing a car, it takes more than just strong hands and elbow grease. You need (*reference toolbox*) tools. (*Take out a hammer.*) Now, who knows what this is? (*Kids respond.*) That’s right. It’s a hammer. Now let me ask you this: Could you fix everything on a car using this? (*Pause.*) No? Why not? (*Pause for a volunteer to explain.*)

“You’re right! A hammer is really useful, but it wouldn’t be enough to fix everything that can go wrong with the car—even if you had a bunch of them! (*Pull more hammers out of the toolbox.*) There are some other tools that do special jobs that the hammer can’t. You’re not going to remove the lug nuts off the wheels or change the brakes with a hammer. Well, I guess you can try, but I’m pretty sure it won’t go well for you ... or the car.

“When it comes to cars, there are actually some really cool tools that mechanics get to use! Each one serves an important purpose. I thought we could play a little game to test your knowledge of tools. If you have ever been to an auto shop, you know there are all sorts of sounds and noises that you hear there as the mechanics use these tools. I’m going to play a sound clip of something you might hear at an auto shop. If you think you know what it is, raise your hand.

“Here’s the first clip!

SFX #1: A hydraulic lift rising up

Call on several volunteers.

"That is the sound of a hydraulic lift raising the car in the air so the mechanics can start working. Let's listen to the second clip.

SFX #2: An impact drill removing lug nuts from the wheel

Call on several volunteers.

"That may be one of the most familiar sounds in a garage. That is an impact drill taking the wheels off of a car. Here's another!

SFX #3: Welding torch starting and welding metal

Call on several volunteers.

"That is the sound of a torch welding metal on the a car. All right, here's the last one. Listen closely.

SFX #4: Sound of somebody hitting thumb with a hammer

"Just kidding, that's not it. Here it is.

SFX #5: Car buffer polishing the car

Call on several volunteers.

"That is the sound of a buffer polishing the finish on a car and making it shine! Those are just several of the important tools that work together to help fix cars and get them ready to roll. Each one has a different but important function. They all work together with a common goal in mind—to get that car in tiptop shape. That's a lot like our story today—working together with a common goal in mind

SETTING UP THE STORY

We've had such a great month with you learning about what the Bible has to say about cooperation. And today we have a great story from the New Testament in the book of Acts. Many of you have heard the stories of how Jesus came and called disciples to follow Him. Well, the book of Acts tells us what happened with these followers after Jesus left and went back to Heaven. You see, Jesus left His followers with a mission. He gave them the incredible task of carrying the message of His great love and offer of a relationship with God to the ends of the earth. Everybody would know about Jesus because of Jesus' followers!

"We call this growing group of followers the Church. I know when I say 'Church' you probably think of a building, but the Church is much more than that. The Church is the people who call Jesus their Lord and Savior, and Jesus trusted His message to them. He left it up to them—to US—through His power, to grow His church and make more followers. I think that is pretty cool!"

CONTAGIOUS LOVE

STORYTELLER: "But how would the Church grow? Did Jesus expect them to keep people's attention with fancy presentations or eye-opening demonstrations? Were they to rely on arguments or persuasive speeches? No. Sure, there may have been a place for these things, but Jesus used one

word: love. Love would define His followers. If His followers would love one another in selfless and sacrificial ways, Jesus knew that others would see this and would want to know more about Jesus. They would want to know what made these people so different. And those people might become followers of Jesus, too!

“But there’s a little problem. Sometimes it’s not easy to love others, especially if those ‘others’ are different from you. And in those early days after Jesus left His followers with a mission, there were a lot of different people with different customs, cultures, and thoughts. It must have been hard for them to get along, but they knew that coming together and learning to work together for the same mission was the only way the Church would grow.

“What about you? Do you find it challenging sometimes to get along with people who are different from you? Yeah, me too. It can be difficult to work together with others. Sometimes we need a little practice. Sounds like a good idea to me!

COOPERATION OLYMPICS

STORYTELLER: “Now, the summer Olympics are coming up in a few months. Many of the Olympic events are about people working together to achieve a huge goal. Well, we are going to have a little Cooperation Olympics in here. You are going to have to work together as a group to accomplish a common task. Up here I have Cooperation Kits!”

Storyteller divides kids up into groups each one having a SGL to lead them. (There will be 5 kits so you can judge how many groups would be good for the service size)

“Okay, don’t open them up yet! In these kits you will find what you need to compete in the two games of our Cooperation Olympics. The first thing you will find is a single balloon. Blow up the balloon and tie it. When I say go, as a group you must keep the balloon in the air. Every person in the group needs to hit the balloon before anyone can hit it a second time. If anyone is skipped, your team is out. Open your kits and find your balloon!”

STORYTELLER: “Is everybody ready? Go!

Sfx: Play Born to Be Wild

Groups keep their balloons in the air. Host and SGLs call groups out when their balloons hit the ground or they skip over a group member. If the game lasts too long, declare multiple winners or make it more complicated (eyes closed, etc.).

End sfx

“That was great! Now onto our second game! This one is inspired by a classic from my childhood ... *(hold up paddleball)* paddleball! Before you get it from your box, here’s what you’ll do. Make a circle as a group. One person will start the paddleball. You must get three hits in a row and then pass it to the next person, who will get three hits in a row, pass it to the next person, etc. Once it has made it all the way around the circle and everyone has hit it three times, sit down as fast as you can together. Make sense? Okay, grab your paddleball out the box and wait for my signal.

“Okay, now does every group have one? *(Pause.)* Ready, set, go!

If time allows, have each group go until the finish and declare the group that sat first as the winners.

“Well played, everyone. Paddleball can be a little challenging. Not sure I’ve ever gotten three in a row!

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

STORYTELLER: “Wow, you guys came to play today! Excellent work in the inaugural Cooperation Olympics! What were some of the things you needed to do to be successful as a group? *(Pause for responses.)*

“Those are all great things. When I was watching you work together to accomplish the goal, I’ll be honest, I wanted to join in! You made it something I wanted to be a part of. That is really similar to what happened with the early Church. Sure, it wasn’t paddleballs and balloons, but check it out.

(Open Bible and read directly from Acts 2:42-46.) “‘The believers studied what the apostles taught. They shared their lives together. They ate and prayed together. Everyone was amazed at what God was doing. They were amazed when the apostles performed many wonders and signs. All the believers were together. They shared everything they had. They sold property and other things they owned. They gave to anyone who needed something. Every day they met together in the temple courtyard. They ate meals together in their homes. Their hearts were glad and sincere.’ *(NirV)*

“Those early Christians studied together. They ate and prayed together. They learned together. They shared what they had with others who didn’t have enough. Some even went as far as to sell their property to help others out! In other words, they loved each other, just like Jesus asked them to. And you know what? The result was also exactly what Jesus said would happen.”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Look at this. *(Read Acts 2:47.)* ‘They praised God. They were respected by all the people. Every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.’ *(NirV)* People took notice of these early Christians. They saw how they lived differently—how they loved one another. Every day there were new followers of Jesus joining them. People wanted to be a part of what God was doing because of the way they worked together.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“It’s like our Bottom Line for today: **[Bottom Line] Working together can point people to Jesus.** When we work together well, it can really make others want to be a part of what is happening. And when the Church—God’s people—cooperates, it can get people interested in learning more about Jesus because they will want to be part of God’s mission to show the world Jesus’ love.”

Pray

STORYTELLER: “Let’s pray. Dear God, thanks for the fun we had together today. Cooperation is not

always so fun, though. It can be difficult to work together at times. Sometimes our differences can get in the way. Help us to love each other and to work together, knowing that it just might just give us an opportunity to introduce others to Jesus. We love You and we ask these things in Jesus' name, amen."

Dismiss kids to small groups