

Alley SG—March 6th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: Come Together (Building the Tabernacle) • *Exodus 25:8-9; 28:1,3; 31:1-11; 35:21,25,34; 39:42-43 (Exodus 19, 25)*

Today's Key Question: When have you seen people work together?

Today's Bottom Line: God wants us to work together.

Monthly Memory Verse: “Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor.” (Ecclesiastes 4:9 NIV)

1. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Cooperation Word Search Activity Sheets (1 per kid), Solution Sheet (1 per Group), Bibles, note cards, pens

What You Do:

- Give kids a Bible and look up the memory verse, Ecclesiastes 4:9.

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Our verse is from Ecclesiastes. Ask kids to tell you whether that's in the Old Testament or the New Testament. (*Old*) So we know it's toward the front or middle of the Bible. Instruct kids to start flipping from the front of their Bibles, toward the middle. (Or let them use the Table of Contents to find Ecclesiastes.) When they find Ecclesiastes, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 4. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to find verse 9 in chapter 4.

- Read the verse together.
- Give each kid a pen and ask kids to write the verse on a note card for reference.
- Circle your group up, and explain to them that they are going to “work together to complete a Word Search, relay race style”.
- First, however, give each kid a Word Search Activity Sheet.
- Say, “I’m going to give you time to complete the Word Search yourself. Then, after about 5-7 minutes, we are going to complete one all together. Hopefully, if all goes well, we will see how much it is to work together the way God wants us to.”
- Allow kids 5-7 minutes to try to complete the Word Search on their own. If a kid completes theirs before you call “time’s up!”, simply have them wait patiently.
- Once you call “Time’s Up!” have everyone put their pens down.
- See who found the most words (this will be the kid you give the new “Memory Verse Sheet” to).
- On your “GO!”, and one at a time around the circle, kids will race to cooperate and work together to complete the entire word search as a team!

What You Say:

“Great job working together to complete the sheet as a team everyone! It was fun to watch you all rely on the words that you had already found yourself when it came your turn to contribute to the team. How did it feel when your words were already found and you had to find new ones? (*Allow response*) God wants us all to show cooperation and work together. Even when it’s hard. Even when we feel like someone has already taken our spot, or we feel like we don’t have a spot. God made you specifically and He designed the perfect spot for you!”

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Flat surface, thumbtacks (1 handful per Group), Bibles, balloons (5 per group, per Service)

What You Do:

- Gather kids around the flat surface you'll be using (table, clipboard, floor, etc.).
- Say, "We are going to do a little science experiment today, to show you the power of working together. God wants us to work together and show cooperation. Before we get into our experiment, I have some questions for you all."
- Ask:
 - What is a tabernacle?
 - Besides the tent structure, what else did God instruct the Israelites to make?
 - Could Moses build the tabernacle alone? Why or why not?
 - What roles/people were necessary to build the tabernacle? What skills were needed to make the things that went inside the tabernacle? To make the clothing for the priests?
 - *(Refer to Exodus 18:1-3, 31:1-6, 35:21-25, 34-35 for examples)*
- For each answer kids give, place a thumbtack down on the surface, with the point sticking straight up in the air.
- Position thumbtacks together in a group. (The more thumbtacks you place on the surface the better this will work.)
- Make sure the tips of the thumbtacks are pointing up and that they are all standing vertically even. (i.e., the tip of each thumbtack is level with the rest)
- Blow up two balloons, away from your group.
 - ***NOTE: You may even want to prep your balloons ahead of time, during the Lesson Video (So&So Show) of your Service Hour.***
- Place one thumbtack down on the surface, away from the others.
- For a visual of this activity, go to: <https://bit.ly/3CZrVaA>
- Ask:
 - What do you think will happen if I place the balloon on the single thumbtack? *(Hold the balloon sideways and gently lower it with a single thumbtack underneath. The balloon pops when it contacts the point of the thumbtack.)*
 - What do you think will happen if I place the balloon on the group of thumbtacks? *(Push all the thumbtacks together, so they're right next to each other. Hold the balloon sideways and gently lower it onto the flat surface with the several thumbtacks. The balloon won't pop when it contacts the thumbtacks. Note: If you continue to press the balloon into thumbtacks, it is possible to pop the balloon, but it takes more pressure to pop the balloon than if there was only one thumbtack.)*
- Explain that the thumbtacks work together to distribute the pressure they apply to the balloon—basically, the tacks are sharing the work of holding up the balloon.
 - When you drop a balloon on a single thumbtack, all the pressure is focused on the tip of the one thumbtack and it is too much pressure for the balloon to withstand, so the balloon splits and pops.
- Ask:
 - What do you think could have happened if the Israelites refused to work together? If everyone just went and did their own thing instead of working together?
 - What can happen when we decide we don't want to work with others, when we think we can do things better alone? *(Emphasize that when we decide we don't need to cooperate with others—when we decide we can do it all—it is like dropping a balloon on a single thumbtack.)*
 - What are some results of working together with others? *(Emphasize when we cooperate it is like dropping a balloon on a plate of many thumbtacks.)*
 - **[Make it Personal] (Share about a time you worked with a team and accomplished more than you could have done alone.)** Encourage kids to share examples of when working with others they did more than they could have done alone.

3. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Paper, markers, mobile device timer

What You Do:

- Divide the group into teams of three or four kids.
- Give each kid within each team a different color marker.
- Teams will be drawing a picture.
- Quietly tell one kid from each group what the team will be drawing; however, the kid can't share the information with the rest of their group.
- When you say "GO," the first kid from each team starts drawing and when you say, "PASS" (about every 5-10 seconds depending on how difficult the object is to draw), they stop drawing and pass the paper to a teammate who continues the picture.
- Teammates cannot talk to each other.
- Continue until everyone on the team has added something to the drawing.
- Gather teams together and share the pictures.
- Allow teammates who didn't have the inside information to guess what they were supposed to be drawing.
- Repeat the activity by telling one kid on each team a different image to draw but allow teams to discuss what they are going to draw (without explicitly stating what the item is) before you say "GO."
- Explain that this time, teams can encourage and talk to each other as they draw.
- Below are suggestions of images for the teams to draw.
- Examples for images to draw:
 - a marching band
 - a guitar
 - a church
 - a city skyline
 - a monkey in a tree
 - a rainbow over a park (*If you choose to use this image, consider saving it for when the teams can talk so they can cooperate to use the different colored markers to create the picture.*)
- Gather the teams together and discuss their artwork. Consider asking:
 - What made it easier to work together to draw the picture?
 - When have you seen people work together? (If needed, prompt with places: When have you seen people work together at school? At home? In church?)
 - When have you had to work with other people? Did it go smoothly/well?

4. Discussion Questions

- Why is cooperation important?
- How do you know God values cooperation? (*This is an opportunity to talk about how God includes us in the plan. God could have created a tabernacle without the Israelites and yet they were involved in working on it.*)
- What can get in the way of people working together well? Share a time when you had a hard time working with others. Why was it hard?

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: No Supplies Needed

What You Do:

- Gather kids in a circle.
- Lead kids in prayer.
- A sample prayer is below:
 - God, You are . . . (*allow kids to fill in the blank with a truth they know about God*)
 - Thank You for creating us in Your image and for giving each of us ways we can work with others. Thank You for creating me to be good at . . . (*allow kids to fill in the blank with a skill or talent they have*)
 - This week show us ways we can use our talents to help each other in everything we do.
 - And all God's people said . . . (*allow kids to close by saying Amen together*)